

Wednesday August 7 1996

Abu Dhabi D 4.50	Hong Kong HKS 25	Oman OR 1.00
Algeria L 220	India IN 165	Pakistan PK 11
Australia AU 160	Indonesia ID 165	Portugal P 240
Bahrain BHD 0.65	Iran IR 8.90	Qatar Q 16.50
Bangladesh T 1.00	Italy I 3,000	Romania RON 2,000
Belgium B 120	Japan J 125	Saudi Arabia SAR 10
Canada C 1.00	Korea KRW 150	Sierra Leone SL 1,200
Chad CFA 100	Malaysia MYR 1.50	Sri Lanka L 120
Czech Republic CZK 100	Mexico MX 16	Sudan SD 1,200
Danish D 120	Norway NOK 16	Switzerland CHF 1.20
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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 46,625

Ed Vulliamy in the town living with loss

Dunblane: the reckoning

G2 with European weather

In search of Miranda Richardson

Woolf's clothing

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Society

Is Blair trapped by the language of reform?

G2 pages 10/11



Alan Shearer greets the massed ranks of fans at St James's Park, Newcastle, yesterday

'The money won't change me. After all, I'm only a sheet-metal worker's son from Newcastle'

The entire population appeared to be wrapped in black and white stripes to hail Alan Shearer's triumphal return

Jim White

HE is 63, gets £87 a week state pension; he is 25 and scrapes by on £30,000 a week, or maybe £40,000 depending on which tabloid you read. Her last pair of shoes cost her £9.99 from a discount warehouse; he gets paid £500,000 a year to wear his.

She lives in a £40,000 house in Denton Burn, a Newcastle suburb with a fashion bypass; he is said to be looking for a place in mazy Ponteland, something for around £750,000. But the moment Barbara Donaldson heard Alan Shearer was coming to her town, she thought she was the

lucky one. "The morning he signed for us I went to get my pension at the post office," said Mrs Donaldson. "Normally, they're a right grumpy lot, but that day everybody in the queue had a smile like a Cheshire cat."

Mrs Donaldson was by no means alone in her reaction to the purchase of Shearer for £15 million. On the day he was presented to his army of new lovers (fans is too slight a word) the entire population of Newcastle appeared to be wrapped in black and white striped nylon.

Everywhere you looked, people in replica Newcastle shirts were heading for St James's Park, Newcastle's ground which stands on top of a hill dominating the town.

And Newcastle were not even playing. Fifteen thousand people just wanted to be there, to roar and chant as the new man was paraded. Mrs Donaldson was luckier than most. While the 15,000 were left in a carpark along with the press and 1,400 invites sent tickets by Newcastle's sponsors, she found herself inside the stadium itself.

"I've been offered £10 for my tickets," said Brian Bloomfield from Gateshead, sitting next to Mrs Donaldson. But I wouldn't take it. It wouldn't be fair on him," he added, pointing to his son, Dean, aged nine, who was beaming beside him. "He has to be here on this of all days."

Now this is an unexpected thing. Shearer cost enough to equip a hospital. He earns more in four days than a teacher will earn in a year. In a town where unemployment is endemic, you might think spending so much on a mere footballer would be regarded

as wanton extravagance. But you could find few in Newcastle yesterday who did not think he represented the biggest bargain this side of a Marks & Spencer prawn sandwich.

"I'd have paid the money myself if I had it," said Brian Bloomfield. "This is the best thing to happen to this town since I can remember."

Which is the point about Shearer. On the BBC's Match of the Seventies broadcast on Monday night, we saw footage of Malcolm Macdonald, a previous incumbent of the number nine shirt Shearer is about to make his own, signing for Arsenal. That was the way things used to be around these parts: every time someone made good he went down south: Gascoigne, Waddie, Cole, they all migrated. Now the real thing was coming Newcastle's way. Not only that, he is a Georgia coming home. Better still, he was snatched out of the grasp of

traditionally bigger, richer rivals. "There's real pride in that," said Mrs Donaldson. "That we are in a position to compete with ManU, who just seem to be able to get whatever they want."

Thus the very size of Shearer's fee, the weight of his wage, are seen locally as symbolic of a new muscular ambition abroad in the town. The Nineties equivalent of the grandiose town halls the Victorians used to build.

"This sends out a signal to the rest of the world," Kevin Keegan, Shearer's new manager, said.

And the man who provided the funds to bring Shearer back to Newcastle was everywhere yesterday, making sure this point was made. "Football has always been part of our tradition," said Sir John Hall, Newcastle United's owner, bouncing around St James's Park in a pair of Turn to page 16, col 1

Poll piles pressure on Labour

Martin Kettle

THE Labour high command's nightmare scenario, a repetition of the 1992 general election defeat, began to take shape yesterday as the latest Guardian-ICM opinion poll confirmed a sustained Conservative comeback.

Labour's long standing opinion poll lead over the Conservatives has been cut by three points in the last month, leaving the gap between the parties at its closest in almost two years, according to the August Guardian-ICM poll survey.

The Labour advantage has fallen in each of the past four months. It now stands at 13 points, nine points down from the 21-point lead in April. Labour retains a large enough lead for an election victory, but the narrowing will shape the fierce pre-election contest. It will electrify the Conservatives by reinvigorating their latest anti-Labour campaign tactics, and will give Tony Blair's leadership its first serious taste of battle with a confident enemy when the political season resumes next month.

The state of the parties in the adjusted August survey shows Labour at 45 per cent (no change on July), Conservatives 33 (up 3), Liberal Democrats 19 (down 2), and others 3 (down 1).

The results in ICM's unadjusted poll underline the Conservative recovery. The unadjusted August figures show Labour at 50 per cent (no change on July), Conservatives at 30 (up 5), Liberal Democrats at 18 (down 2), others at 3 (down 2). The unadjusted Labour lead in August is 20 points (down 5).

With nine months to go before the expected polling day, the results show the political momentum is with the Conservatives, who last month launched a major scare campaign against Mr Blair under the slogan New Labour: New Danger.

This latest poll, which consolidates a trend among other polling organisations, will boost Tory hopes that the long-awaited feelgood factor, which some had despaired of ever seeing, is arriving at the 11th hour via the high street and the housing market to

Voting intention

Adjusted	May	Jun	July	Aug
Lab	45	45	45	45
Con	28	30	30	33
LDem	21	19	21	19
Other	5	5	4	3
Labour lead	17	16	15	12

Source: Guardian/ICM



bring them electoral relief. Mr Blair, on the other hand, will be strengthened in his view that party divisions — such as the rows about the shadow cabinet elections and the treatment of Clare Short — help the Tories.

Labour will be able to draw genuine comfort from the fact that the narrowing lead has not been caused by any fall in overall Labour support. Labour's rating of 45 per cent remains unchanged since July and has scarcely altered since May.

The ICM finding follows polls by Mori last week and by System Three in Scotland yesterday which also showed no change in the Labour rating.

The reduced lead has so far been caused by Conservative gains at the expense of the Liberal Democrats and the minor parties. Labour voters are also far more solid in their voting intention than their Tory counterparts.

But a five-point swing to the Conservatives since July

among C1 white-collar voters — traditionally the most volatile section of the electorate — will cause alarm among Mr Blair and his advisers, who have invested immense effort in trying to reassure this group that Labour does not threaten their achievements and aspirations.

Findings from other questions asked by ICM this month will also alarm Labour. These show that voters as a whole expect taxes will increase, inflation will rise and interest rates will go up under Labour. But by a narrow majority they believe the economy is more likely to deteriorate under the Conservatives.

ICM interviewed a random sample of 1,200 adults aged 18 and over by telephone on 2-3 August 1996. Interviews were conducted across the country and the results have been weighted by the profile of all adults.

Poll findings, page 4

Woman in abortion row had operation a month ago

Chris Mitchell Medical Correspondent

THE woman at the centre of the row over aborting one of her twins on financial grounds had the operation a month ago, it emerged last night.

Health officials confirmed that the 30-year-old single mother had had an abortion but would give no further details. Doctors at London's Queen Charlotte Hospital agreed to abort one twin after the woman, who already has one child, declared she could not cope with more than one of the babies.

In a statement last night, Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust, which includes Queen Charlotte's, said: "Professor Bennett [the doctor who first revealed the woman's dilemma] has spoken to the woman who is happy to confirm that the operation has taken place. She is adamant that she does not want any more details put out."

Anti-abortion groups, acting in the belief that the operation was still pending, successfully sought an injunction yesterday temporarily banning the abortion on the grounds the woman had not been informed of all the options. Pro-life groups had received pledges of more than

£90,000 to help the woman bring up the twins. Fertility expert Lord Robert Winston said the pledges of cash from pro-life campaigners had been "unethically offered".

"It is something that is extremely difficult for women to do, and is only done after a great deal of soul-searching."

Professor Bennett, a gynaecologist, said she was horrified at the way pro-life campaigners had seized on the case — and with the auction that developed. She also expressed "deep concern" over the possibility of any breach of confidentiality and the ethics raised.

"I think it is immoral to put someone like this under pressure," he said. He spoke of the pain in coming to a decision about having an abortion saying: "No woman I have ever met has ever gone through a termination without the most serious consideration."

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Professor Bennett, a gynaecologist, said she was horrified at the way pro-life campaigners had seized on the case — and with the auction that developed.

She also expressed "deep concern" over the possibility of any breach of confidentiality and the ethics raised. "I think the whole question of how this got into the public domain is a real ethical problem in itself," she said.

The story broke with a two-page interview in the Sunday Express, when Professor Philip Bennett, of Queen Charlotte's, said he was prepared to abort one healthy twin. Its mother was described as 16 weeks pregnant and in "socially strained" circumstances. The article and accompany-

ing quotes from Prof Bennett made it sound as if operation was pending.

Sue Douglas, editor of Sunday Express, said last night that the article was based on a taped interview, with a second visit to confirm the facts, and the text had been faxed to Prof Bennett for his comments.

When the paper checked on Saturday it was told the operation had not at that stage taken place. "We have no reason to believe the doctor misled us. Whether it has taken place or not is a matter for the courts to decide."

Letters, page 8; Dale's abortion dilemma, page 7

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Letters, page 8; Dale's abortion dilemma, page 7

Inside

Britain
A repeat of last month's disorder in Ulster looks more likely after talks between Protestants and Catholics over marches broke down.

World News
The European Union scored a hard-fought victory in Maastricht when Muslim and Croat local leaders agreed to run the town together.

Finance
Shares of Christian Salvessen collapsed after the logistics group rejected an increased offer from Hays group valuing it at £1.14 billion.

Sport
David Lloyd was appointed England's coach for the winter tour of Zimbabwe and New Zealand as Peter Lever resigned as bowling coach.

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Please allow up to 28 days for delivery.

Sketch

Serious talk amid the barrels of fun



Ruaridh Nicoll

VOICE with a tone as flat as beer counted down the minutes before the festival opened.

Like one enormous pub, Olympia's grand hall brought together the pious, the proud, the bores and the beer guts.

There was revelry in the air but beer is a serious business, especially when you have to decide Britain's best beer for 1996.

Roger Protz, a speciality beer writer, peered through the half pint glass, circulated the liquid and finally sucked it into his mouth.

His neighbour, Keith Freak, took a sip and his great, fleshy face rolled like dough as the flavours hit home.

"You can see we take this seriously," said Mr Protz, pointing out the murky nature of one tipple.

The Campaign for Real Ale (Cma) was set up in 1971 when four journalists were travelling together in Ireland and realised that the beer available to them back home was terrible, bland, pasteurised and fizzy.

bring back ale that had made Britain great, notorious even - flat, warm and flatulent.

Since then membership has swelled to more than 50,000, with campaigns to extend licensing hours, save regional brewers, keep prices low and pints topped up.

In the judging room the beer was going down well. "Astringency is a major fault," said one judge.

As the atmosphere in the hall heated up, the great beer finals got under way. Ales, great and good, were camped around a table sided by England cricket Devon Malcolm.

Malcolm looked at his glass and considered "I could drink several pints of this," he said, finally.

The lady serving the drinks, Matt Wilson, arrived. She is in a halter top, not quite the buxom bar wench, but the idea is the same.

He looked into a crowd that took their beer seriously. Mr Protz first attacked the "beerocrats" in the European Commission who yesterday sought to damage small breweries by attacking Britain's guest beer laws.

Review

Perfect flourish in French import

Andrew Clements

Semele The Proms, Royal Albert Hall/Radio 3

THE Proms regularly import operas from Glyndebourne - Lulu makes the journey up from Sussex in two weeks - but Monday's Semele came all the way from the south of France.

Robert Carsen's production of Handel's dramatic oratorio, conducted by William Christie, was the main event of the festival in Aix-en-Provence last month, and the same cast, conductor and orchestra - Christie's baroque specialists Les Arts Florissants - were brought together again for this concert version.

This was not a semi-staging of the kind that Glyndebourne brings: there were no theatrical accoutrements in the Albert Hall, not a prop or a silly hat in sight, but the benefits of a well-honed production pedigree permeated every aspect of the performance.

At its most basic, it allowed all the singers, soloists and chorus, to dispense with scores, giving every number an easy flexibility and directness that blew away any feeling of this being a reverent, and possibly rather sterile, homage to one of Handel's greatest masterpieces.

Elderly blacks and Asians face care service problems

David Brindie

CARE services must become more sensitive to the requirements of older ethnic minority people, a charity warns today.

Counsel and Care researchers interviewed 60 elderly people at day centres, meeting places, and in sheltered housing schemes in

partly Christie's doing, or more specifically the result of the playing he obtained from his silvery, light-toned band. Semele came all the way from the south of France.

But Les Arts Florissants are so grooved into working with Christie's idiosyncratic conducting style that, however small the sound sometimes was, there was never a moment of uncertainty.

Speeds were generally on the slow side - not as measured as in Christie's reading of Theodora at Glyndebourne earlier this summer, but still less sprightly than perhaps they would have been had this Semele originated in the concert hall rather than the opera house, with the need to provide the room for the piece to breathe dramatically.

Almost every singer was perfectly cast, and in the title role Rosemary Joshua was the star. She took the part of this classic Handeliano bimbo with beautifully turned decorations and coloratura in her big set pieces, and a witty lack of self-awareness.

More than Black and White, Counsel and Care, Twyman House, 16 Bonny Street, London NW1 9LQ; 06.

Tough test ahead for Yeltsin as dawn raid shatters peace hopes and device explodes in Moscow

Rebels storm into Grozny

James Meek in Moscow

CHECHEN rebels launched a ferocious dawn offensive yesterday, downing four Russian helicopters and shattering hopes of peace as they stormed into the centre of Grozny.

He is due to take the oath on Friday before leaving Moscow again for a long holiday.

The rebels, numbering between 200 and 600, were reported to be strengthening their positions inside Grozny last night after a day of heavy fighting in which a number of Russian armoured vehicles were set on fire.

At one point, federal helicopter gunships were firing rockets at rebel positions within 100 yards of the offices of the Moscow-backed administration in the city centre.

of staff, as saying the Grozny operation had been headed by Shamil Basayev, the notorious hostage-taker, and had been sanctioned by the rebel leader, Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev.

The actions in Grozny have a single aim - showing that the war in Chechnya is not over yet, the radio station quoted Gen Maskhadov as saying.

Members of a Russian delegation which had just arrived in Grozny to revive the peace process reacted with outrage to Gen Maskhadov's statement, saying they saw no point in further talks with either him or the Chechen leader.

Tim Guldsmann, head of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe team in Grozny which helped draw up the failed peace deal signed in Moscow in May, condemned the rebel action.

"These actions and their consequences only increase the scale of the conflict and create a serious threat to the peace process in Chechnya," he said.

But Alexander Shokhin, the first deputy speaker of parliament and a supporter of Mr Chernomyrdin, said the incident was an attempt to "exert psychological pressure" on the prime minister as parliament prepared to condemn him for a second spell in office.

'Wrong man' held for killing schoolgirl

Alex Duval Smith in Ploeme Fougères and Paul Webster in Paris

THE confession by the man held for the rape and killing of a British schoolgirl in France last month has been thrown into doubt by the result of a DNA test.

French police confirmed they are seeking another man in connection with the murder of Caroline Dickinson, aged 13, at a youth hostel at Ploeme-Fougères in Brittany.

Earlier, it was stated that scientific tests appeared to clear Patrice Padé, who had confessed to the crime, of raping Caroline.

Judicial sources in St Malo refused to say whether Padé, aged 39, was a possible accomplice, but an official indicated that police were convinced that more than one person was involved in the murder, which occurred in the early hours of July 18.

"With only two hands, you cannot rape, kill and stop someone from crying out in a room containing four other people," the official said, recalling that Caroline died while four of her school friends slept in the same dormitory.



Caroline Dickinson... her parents called for police efforts to be redoubled

"Now it seems that we have been denied even this. We hope that the authorities will redouble their efforts to catch the culprit. Then the man who robbed Caroline of her future and us of a lovely daughter will not be free to commit such a crime again."

A spokesman for Cornwall education authority said Caroline's death had had a marked effect on her family and on staff and students at Launceston College, where she was a pupil.

The spokesman added: "The only crumb of comfort was that the investigation of the crime by French authorities seemed to be swift and conclusive. That this now appears not to be the case will be very distressing for all those involved, and threatens to place them back in the glare of publicity."

According to officials in St Malo, the examining magistrate, Gerard Zaug, intends to maintain strict secrecy in the

case and would give no details of whether authorities had a description of another suspect.

Neither he nor police would comment on DNA tests taken after the murder on two male teachers and five boys in the Launceston group. However, informal sources indicated that the description of a second man sought by police did not match that of anyone in the British party.

Padé's lawyer, René Blanchard, claimed yesterday that his client had never made a true confession.

DNA test more useful in clearing innocent than convicting guilty

Owen Bowcott

ANALYSIS of strands of DNA, or deoxyribonucleic acid, has proved more persuasive in ruling suspects out of police investigations than in identifying them beyond doubt as the culprit.

The technique was first used in a British court in 1984, to settle a question of relationship in an immigration case. It relies on matching patterns of genetic material located in the cell's chromosomes.

Samples of blood or semen, for example, from the scene of a crime are placed in a gel and have an electric current passed through them. Certain elements are drawn out further than others. Spread out on a membrane and exposed to X-ray film, a distinct row of bands emerges. Samples taken from a suspect's blood or saliva are compared to the evidence.

There has been a long-running debate, however, about the number of identical bands needed for a conclusive match.

In fingerprinting, courts require at least 16 identical patterns between the whorl of patterns on the tip of the finger before a suspect's identity is deemed to be proved.

The fact that many people in the same country have some shared ancestry has led to heated disputes over claims that DNA tests are relying on odds of a million or more to one against.

Analytical techniques are still being refined, but in the meantime the police in Britain have already embarked on compiling a national DNA database in the hope that they will be able to identify suspects more quickly.

The range of human materials, such as hair roots or bones, from which DNA profiles can be extracted is increasing all the time as the process becomes more sophisticated. Such advances will, it is believed, improve detection rates.

mère, said that Padé had made a confession after his arrest.

Police subsequently leaked information on Padé's record, which included two indecent assaults on under-age girls. His neighbours described him as a man who had fled his home in Dieppe at the age of 18 after he was sexually assaulted by relatives. Since then he had spent most of his life wandering from town to town and begging.

ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE: One featured player bankrupt, others seek an eviction

Alex Bellos on the day the Buck House soap opera vied with Murder One

BANKRUPTCY, a row over property rights, and allegations of excess drinking: the major characters may be off on holiday but at home the royal soap opera's subplots roll on and on.

The justice system yesterday dealt with three of the sideshow's minor players. Their lives are all separate yet somehow inextricably linked. History books will refer to them as the mother, the lover and the toe-sucker.

It was not Frances Shand Kydd's fault she became a blood relative of the monarchy. Diana, her daughter with her first husband, Earl Spencer, married the future king.

But it was her fault that last year she graced the pages of Hello!, the magazine that sets a course on all ye who enter. Sure enough, in April she was accused of drink driving in the streets of Oban and the case was yesterday set for trial.

Hello! is a common theme among all those hanging on to the coat-tails (and toe-nails) of royalty. John Bryan, the Duchess of York's Texan fi-

ancial adviser, thought he was on to a winner when he made a £145,000 deal with the magazine for photo rights to the duchess's sister's wedding in Australia.

He had not bargained for the inevitable reverberations. They started when the happy couple, Jane and Reiner Luedicke, said Bryan was hoarding some of Hello!'s money he

owed them. In July 1994, the High Court ordered the financier to pay up £55,000.

The sorry saga ended up back at the High Court yesterday. Bryan is still £30,000 in debt to the Luedickes and has two other creditors snapping at his heels. He did not turn up and was declared bankrupt.

The final piece of the jigsaw concerns Major James Hewitt. In fact, the Devon cottage where Diana and the guardie courted became the unwitting star of proceedings yesterday. Hewitt's mother Shirley and sister Syra appeared at Exeter county court to try to evict a 41-year-old photographic technician from a converted cowpen in the grounds of The Shieling in

Elford. The court adjourned the case for two weeks.

Kevin Dance has lived in the tiny bedsit, which he claims is mouldy, damp and infested with mice, for eight years. He has to cross a courtyard to use an outside toilet attached to the Hewitts' cottage.

That certainly wasn't the kind of treatment afforded to Diana when she and Hewitt were having an affair. How do we know? Because Shirley yesterday opened her heart to Hello!, and spoke for The First Time About His Relationship With The Princess Of Wales. And The Course Of Events That Led To His Downfall. Reports suggest that Shirley will pick up £40,000 for the piece.

JAMES HEWITT His mother and sister appeared at Exeter county court yesterday to try to evict an odd job man from a shed close to the cottage where he courted the Princess of Wales.

The hearing was adjourned. Shirley Hewitt told Hello! how Diana helped with the washing up and displayed a passion for chocolate cakes.

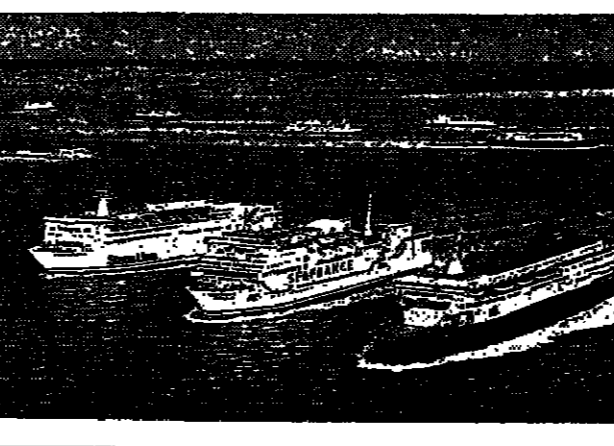
JOHN BRYAN The Duchess of York's former financial adviser, he was declared bankrupt at the High Court yesterday. The proceedings were brought by the duchess's sister Jane, who is owed £30,000 from a deal he made with Hello! magazine for pictures of her wedding to Reiner Luedicke.



Kevin Dance outside the rented shack PHOTOGRAPH BY PAUL SLATER

Carrier bags crammed full of choice...

RELAX and just cruise across from Dover to Calais - the shortest sea route to France. Large, luxurious car ferries with shops, restaurants and entertainment on board, plus hovercraft, provide rapid, comfortable crossings with a departure every thirty minutes.



For a shopping day, a relaxing stay or for immediate access to motorway...

Calais... a short cruise away. DOVER/CALAIS OVER 140 CROSSINGS DAILY BY P&O EUROPEAN FERRIES, STENA LINE, SEAFRANCE & HOVERSPED.

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page.

Triumph of entertainment over politics and all, hopefully, in the best possible taste



THE 1980s: Rock star Jon Bon Jovi for baby boom decade



THE 1960s: Aretha Franklin for the politically correct



THE 1970s: Carly Simon, another presidential favourite

Clintons invite America to Bill's birthday bash

Democrats hope to raise \$10m with a star-studded television extravaganza over 10 days

Martin Walker in Washington

HILARY Clinton has hired the producer of the Oscars ceremony, and of the Miss America pageant, to organise her husband's 50th birthday party later this month as a fund-raising television extravaganza which will be beamed by satellite to 100 cities in the United States.

What could be the most tasteless presidential event since Nixon designed Ruritanian-style uniforms for the White House guards is to be given tone by the inclusion, at Mrs Clinton's insistence, of the protestess Maya Angelou.

She will help host the proceedings with comedy star Whoopi Goldberg, last seen at the Oscars.

Bill's Birthday Bash in New York's Radio City music hall at prime time on Sunday night, August 18, is a public event with no known precedent in the history of the American republic.

Each of the five decades of Mr Clinton's life is to be represented by one of his favourite musical turns. The 1940s will star Tony Bennett, and the 1950s, for some unfathomable reason, will feature rock star Jon Bon Jovi.

The politically correct 1960s will be portrayed by Aretha Franklin and Smokey Robinson, rather than any pot-smoking Beatles reunion or a Mick Jagger rendition of "Street Fighting Man". The 1970s gets Carly Simon.

For the 1980s, Mr Clinton has chosen Kenny Rogers and Jennifer Holliday, which brings in country music and Broadway shows. The 1990s will be represented by the popular country and western singer Shania Twain.

Each musical turn is to be introduced by yet another star. The Clintons' favourite actress, Mary Steenburgen from Arkansas, will introduce one. And doubtless to mollify the gay vote, Nathan Lane, the cross-dressing co-star of the film The Birdcage, will introduce another.

The event will kick off the 10 days of Mr Clinton's reintroduction to the US, leading up to the Democratic convention in Chicago on August 28.

Those Hollywood stars left over from his birthday event, such as Robin Williams, will perform at the convention in the final triumph of entertainment over politics.

Jeff Margolis, the Oscar night producer, met the Clintons on Monday to run through details of the programme, which is expected to raise \$10 million (\$3.6 million) for the Democratic National Committee.

But expect no references to that other event which established the impresario credentials of Mr Margolis and made him famous: Mrs Clinton is no fan of beauty contests which feature young women in swimsuits. And the president, who once admitted that he "caused pain in my marriage", is not going to appreciate jokes about the Miss America pageant.

As befits a father of his country about to enter his fifties, this is to be a Mr and Mrs America event.

Before some electorates, Bill's Birthday Bash might be at risk of back-firing. Coming in the month that he promises to repeal the welfare system, it might appear to be in such dubious taste as Marie Antoinette's advice that Parisians short of bread might prefer to eat cake.

But historian and commentator Stephen Hess, of the



Getting in the swing... The saxophone-playing president has called in the professionals for his 50th birthday

Brookings Institution, said: "Never worry about vulgarity in the same breath as American politics. It's going to work because everybody knows Clinton will win the election

and Americans like a winner." And remember the precedent, when Marilyn Monroe crooned Happy Birthday to Kennedy. The only question is who gets to play Marilyn."

And Robert Dole celebrated his 70th birthday last month with a fund-raising letter to Republicans, signed by his daughter and enclosing a birthday card and a blank

cheque, and asking the recipients to "join me in a very personal birthday gift as a big surprise for father". Dole dilemmas, page 7

Tension on Derry march route rises

David Sharrock Ireland Correspondent

A REPEAT of last month's serious disorder in Northern Ireland looks increasingly likely after a meeting between organisers of a Protestant march and Catholic protesters broke up without agreement yesterday.

The Apprentice Boys of Derry want 250 of their members to parade around the historic walls of the city this Saturday to mark the site which delivered a victory to William of Orange over the Catholic pretender to the English throne James.

But residents of the nationalist Bogside are opposed to the parade, claiming that it is offensive and sectarian. Both sides emerged without an agreement after two hours of talks which were chaired by the SDLP leader, John Hume, MP for the city.

In spite of optimistic reports earlier this week, the talking appears to have run into the sands at the fourth meeting between the two sides. Ailsa Simpson, governor of the Apprentice Boys, said after the meeting: "It is not our fault that we have been unable to find a solution."

But Donnacha MacNiallais of the Bogside Residents Association, said: "We are bitterly disappointed at the attitude of the Apprentice Boys during these talks."

Although no more meetings are planned, discussions are to continue with other groups in the city to try to find some sort of settlement and ease tension. Mr Hume said: "We will continue to hold meetings with other parties in an attempt to find a compromise."

Up to 10,000 Apprentice Boys from all over Northern Ireland are due to gather in the centre of Londonderry on Saturday when 250 members of local clubs are due to walk the walls.

The 100-yard stretch which overlooks the Bogside constitutes the source of disagreement between the two sides. Bogside residents want the number of marchers limited to 13 — a representative for each of the original Boys who defended the city — without any accompaniment from bands.

The main outstanding point of disagreement is over the demand by nationalists that any decision regarding the parade should be subject to account objections by Catholics living in other parts of Northern Ireland where Apprentice Boys' parades are scheduled to take place.

Police have already banned a small Apprentice Boys parade going down Belfast's lower Ormeau Road, another sectarian flashpoint, on Saturday morning.

The decision infuriated march organisers, but they confirmed yesterday that they would adhere to the police re-routing order.

Politicians and church leaders now fear that a repeat of the events surrounding the Drumcree in Portadown, when Orangemen forced the RUC to make a U-turn on its decision to prevent them from marching through a Catholic area, could plunge Northern Ireland into a deep crisis.

At a press conference, Mr Simpson accused the Bogside residents of being dictatorial. "If there is violence, it will not come from the Apprentice Boys," he said.

Nationalists are now planning their own rally in the city on Friday evening.

Woman in abortion row had operation a month ago

continued from page 1 not it is still an incredible dilemma," said Ms Douglas. Nuala Scarbrick, of the pro-life group Life, said last night that even if the abortion had taken place this did not change the ethical concerns, and new questions arose about how the woman was being cared for now and what counselling she had received.

Professor Bennett should be sacked because his revelations about the woman have made people want to identify her. He has blemished the name of a great hospital."

She said Life would continue with its appeal for funds to help women seeking abortions because of the cost of children. Before it emerged that the operation had taken place, Conservative MP Ann Winterton, chairman of the all-party parliamentary Pro-Life Group, demanded an inquiry into the case.

She said: "I am writing immediately to the Secretary of State for Health, asking him to make full inquiries into the whole case and to take any necessary action."

"Not surprisingly the public has been extremely moved by the case — to know that one twin will be killed and left in the womb until the birth of the second child."

"We know that twins bond at a very early stage, probably at 12 weeks or possibly even earlier. It would have the most devastating effect on that child."

Professor Bennett was refusing requests for interviews yesterday. He was described as brilliant researcher, doing world-class work into premature babies, and a conscientious and caring doctor, but a naive man who had never before spoken to journalists. He was reported to be amazed at the interest shown in the case.

Tory donors set to make millions in railways deal

Rebecca Smithers Political Correspondent

THREE of the Conservative Party's biggest corporate donors stand to make millions of pounds from the £2.5 billion sale of all three former British Rail leasing companies, Labour claimed last night.

The revelation will fuel the row over the £225 million sale of the smallest company, Portbrook Leasing, to the bus group Stagecoach, which will earn its bosses a profit of £20 million after they bought it from British Rail seven months ago.

The donors include the merchant bank Hambros, which donated £56,000 to Tory funds in 1995-96 and played a key role in the sale of the companies; Hanson Trust, which gave £100,000 in 1985-86; and the Royal Bank of Scotland, which is also the party's banker.

According to information obtained by Labour's new transport spokeswoman, Glenda Jackson, Hambros was appointed in July 1993 to advise on "the creation of a corporate market for the leasing of rolling stock". Hambros also designed the structure of the new companies, advised on the allocation of the rolling stock fleet within the companies, prepared the leasing documents and calculated the lease rentals. A year later, it was reappointed to Transport on the sales process, and to negotiate the sale. The DOT has refused to disclose the fees paid to Hambros because of "commercial confidentiality".

Between 1979 and 1990 Hambros donated £368,000 to the Conservative Party, and its current chairman is also a party treasurer.

In addition to Hambros, three partners in the consortium which acquired the Eversholt Leasing Company are significant contributors to the Conservative Party. Ms Jackson said.

They include Hanson Trust, which donated £652,000 between 1979 and 1990, and made subsequent donations of £100,000 each year from 1991-92 to 1995-96. A second member of the consortium is the Royal Bank of Scotland, which provided the Conservative Party with an overdraft

facility of £19 million after the 1992 general election campaign. A third member of the consortium, Candover Investments, is also a donor. In 1987 it gave £2,500 to party coffers, with further donations of £10,000 in 1991-92 and £5,000 in 1994-95.

Eversholt is the most profitable of the three leasing companies reporting pre-tax profits in the 1994-95 financial year of £111 million. The other leasing company is Angel Trains, which was bought by Frideaux & Associates, Babcock & Brown and Nomura International.

Ms Jackson said: "The sale of the leasing companies has become one of the great scandals of this parliament. Not only have massive profits been made on the gross undervaluation of public assets, but it now emerges that a significant portion of those profits are finding their way to companies actively involved in bank-rolling the Conservative Party. They are set to make millions of pounds from what should still be publicly owned assets."

Rail 'fat cats' cream big rises, page 11

Bumps and all in Chat with Major

Rebecca Smithers

WHEN Terry took Wendie, Mildred, Sue, Rosemary, Dennis and Pat to see John at No 10 they had a few things on their minds.

The first issue that worried the six readers of Chat magazine and its editor, Terry Tamner, was education. The Prime Minister was not very happy about schools either. He told them: "Anybody who tells me school days were the best days of their lives, I think needs their bumps felt."

Mr Major appeared to endorse this mysterious practice with his next assertion: "I think people are becoming increasingly attracted towards alternative medicine but the doctors aren't."

There is more of a consensus over the misuse of drugs and Mr Major knew who the culprits were and what to do about them. "They stop off at the Caribbean where there are tiny little islands who can't cope with the drugs ban. I am perfectly happy to send Royal Navy ships out to the Caribbean is-

lands to stop the drugs even getting to northern Europe."

So gunboat diplomacy is all right, but he drew the line at capital punishment. "If you reintroduce capital punishment, you wouldn't get convictions. On any jury of 12, there would be three or four people who did not believe in it, morally, emotionally or for religious reasons and they would not convict."

So much for conviction politics but what, the representatives of Britain's 11th biggest-selling magazine wanted to know, was his greatest achievement? "We've almost stopped inflation dead and there's no sign of it taking off. And that might not make the blood race now, but it makes a big difference to a lot of people."

But everyone has their problems and perhaps Mr Major should count himself lucky, nestled between the covers of the brazenly downmarket women's magazine, with articles such as Maggie's Got a Thyroid Problem and It's Time You Earned Your Keep.

He advised the 516,000 who buy Chat to shop around before deciding whether he earns his keep.

Why Bognor Regis yet again? What has this decent, amiable, sporadically scruffy seaside town done to make itself one of those joke locations we cannot do without? Once the world loved to sneer at Slough. But this has faded, perhaps because John Betjeman's appeal for the place to be bombed was seen as going too far.

THE VI-SPRING SUMMER SALE ALL THE COMFORT AT SPECIALLY REDUCED PRICES PLUS FREE LUXURY MATTRESS PROTECTOR WHEN YOU BUY A NEW VI-SPRING BED



A protester who failed to penetrate the tight security cordon on the Newbury bypass site. Green activists insist they were not caught flat footed yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: SEAN SMITH

Redwood call to end monopoly

Suzanne Millne
Labour Editor

THE Government's efforts to exploit the postal strikes for political advantage were upstaged yesterday when the rightwing Tory leadership hopeful John Redwood called for the temporary suspension of the Royal Mail's letter monopoly to be made permanent. As the postal workers' national programme of one-day strikes resumed and London Underground drivers prepared for today's seventh stoppage, Mr Redwood's plea for full deregulation was taken up by the parcels delivery firm White Arrow.

Echoing the views of the other main private courier companies — TNT, UPS and DHL — a spokeswoman for White Arrow said it was "simply not a commercial reality" to take advantage of a temporary letter monopoly suspension, even if the current one month was extended to three.

She said if the monopoly was permanently removed, there was a strong possibility that the firm would "get into letter post in a big way". She refused to comment on what discussions the company had had with government.

Another private delivery service, City Post, yesterday claimed to be the first company to have taken advantage of the monopoly suspension, offering a same-day service for existing customers in London during the Communication Workers' Union's fourth 24-hour stoppage in the dispute over working conditions.

The intervention by Mr Redwood threatened to undermine ministers' efforts to embarrass the Labour Party over the post and Underground disputes and drew an irritable response from the President of the Board of Trade, Ian Lang, who was forced to warn against the potential threat to the universal price and delivery service from full-scale deregulation. He had earlier dropped broad hints about the likelihood of new Post Office break-up and privatisation proposals featuring in the forthcoming Conservative manifesto.

Post Office managers yesterday claimed the first significant cracks in their employees' support for industrial action, with 14,000 working on the morning shift — about 15 per cent of those



John Redwood: upstaged attempt to exploit strikes



Ian Lang: deregulation threat to delivery service

Protesters 'surprised' as work on bypass resumes

Tight security as machinery moves on to Newbury site

John Fenner

MORE than 100 private security guards and police protected workers from the building firm Costain as work on the second phase of the Newbury bypass got under way at 5am yesterday.

During the first phase nearly 800 protesters were arrested. This time machinery moved on to the site near the A4 almost without incident.

A Highways Agency spokesman said: "We wanted to take the protesters by sur-

prise, which is exactly what we have done.

"We came in hard and fast because we cannot afford to get involved in any trouble and we are very pleased with how things have gone this morning."

But Cath Bann, a spokeswoman for the environmental umbrella group, the Third Battle of Newbury, denied protesters had been caught flat footed. "We did anticipate work starting today. We knew that because security guards were at an hotel at Andover."

She said the group had activated its network to rally campaigners on Monday night.

Thames Valley police said there had been "one or two arrests", mostly for breach of bail conditions.

"There has not been any trouble on site at all. It has been very low key and we

would like it to stay that way," he said.

Friends of the Earth yesterday accused the Advertising Standards Authority of incompetence after one of its advertisements was censured, writes Andrew Oulst.

The advertisement questioned why £101 million was being spent on the Newbury bypass when it would make little difference to journey times. It said it was relying on data from the Highways Agency, but the authority said the use of the figures was misleading and called for the advert to be withdrawn.

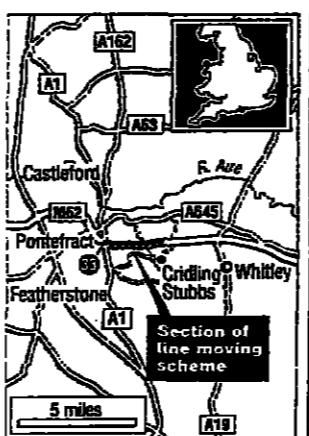
The group vowed to ignore the instruction. Charles Secrett, the executive director, said: "If the ASA cannot pay for the independent expertise necessary for good judgment in these difficult cases, they should stick to examining claims about cat food."

M-way trial aims to reduce wear and cut costs by moving lanes

Martin Wainwright

ENGINEERS are hoping to slash the national budget for highway repairs by adopting a technique known to householders for centuries.

Tests start today on a "share the wear" experiment which brings to motorways the principle of shifting the stair carpet to even out the area subject to tread. Two kilometres of the heavily-used M62 in West Yorkshire will be used for trials in shifting



The wheel-ruts which are left by lorries on the two inner lanes. The simple concept is to move the motorway's lane markings slightly, encouraging drivers to use a different section of the carriage-way and spread the area of concentrated damage. Estimates by the Highways Agency, which is piloting the scheme, suggest that motorways' working life could be extended by up to 40 per cent, saving millions of pounds a year.

ent section of the carriage-way and spread the area of concentrated damage. Estimates by the Highways Agency, which is piloting the scheme, suggest that motorways' working life could be extended by up to 40 per cent, saving millions of pounds a year.

"Only a relatively small percentage of a road receives almost 100 per cent of the wear and tear," said a spokeswoman for the agency. "Hence the idea of seeing if, by simply moving road markings, we can spread the wear more evenly."

The trial at Ferrybridge, where the Hull-Liverpool M62 crosses the A1M, is the first of a national programme of tests which will temporarily shift lane markings by leaving a narrower right-hand lane.

Crucial voters return to Tories

Guardian ICM poll

Martin Kettle

THE crucial questions raised by the steady erosion of the Labour poll lead over the Conservatives — down 3 points again this month — are: who is changing their voting intentions, and why are they doing it?

The August Guardian-ICM survey reveals that the most eagerly canvassed group of voters in the country — the C1 white collar workers — have switched to the Conservatives this month in spectacular numbers, a sign, perhaps, that these "new" Tory voters of the 1980s may be beginning to come back to the party which they associate with their prosperity and aspirations.

In July, the C1 white collar section of ICM's sample opted 42-53 in favour of Labour. This month, in a dramatic reversal, they have gone 39-40 to the Conservatives. For a single month, this is a very

VOTERS' HOPES AND FEARS

Question: Under which government, Conservative or Labour, do you think the following is most likely to happen?

	All voters	Conservative	Labour
The economy will deteriorate	32	29	46
Interest rates will rise	26	46	40
Law and order will improve	24	40	48
Inflation will go up	28	46	48
Unemployment will fall	22	48	39
There will be more strikes	27	39	39
Taxes will go up	27	43	43
Educational standards will improve	21	51	30
We will have a single European currency	30	30	21
House prices will rise substantially	33	21	63
Income will be spread more evenly	11	63	21
Welfare payments will be concentrated on the really needy	18	57	12
The health service will deteriorate	60	12	12
There will be lasting peace in N Ireland	12	13	12

Source: ICM

large swing — 5 per cent. The feeling that old habits may be reasserting themselves among the electorate is underlined by an examination of the results shown in the table. ICM asked all voters whether a series of statements were more likely to be true under a Conservative or a Labour government (voters could also choose to answer: both, neither, or don't know).

Voters expect a Labour government to be more likely than the Conservatives to

bring economic problems. More voters believe that interest rates will rise under Labour than the Tories (46 per cent as against 29 per cent); that inflation will go up (exactly the same figures); and that taxes will rise (48 to 27). Voters also expect more strikes if Tony Blair gets to Downing Street.

It is followed them round the estate and then they met up with my husband."

Police found a machete at the scene but Mr Smith did not have any stab wounds. He had facial injuries and a cut to the back of his head.

Detective Chief Inspector

lieve that the economy will deteriorate under Conservative rule (32 saying Tory, as against 29 saying Labour). Voters are also optimistic that Labour has got answers to unemployment, with 48 per cent thinking it is more likely to fall under Labour, as against 22 per cent for the Tories.

Labour's social policy strengths are underlined in the survey. Only 12 per cent think the health service will deteriorate under Labour, compared with 60 per cent for the Conservatives. Labour will be boosted by its good showing on law and order, traditionally a Tory strength.

Intriguingly, the electorate seems incapable of differentiating between the likelihood of Britain joining a European single currency under either of the two major parties: 30 per cent say it is more likely under Labour, and 30 per cent say the Conservatives.

ICM interviewed a random sample of 1,200 adults aged 18 and over by telephone between August 23, 1995. Interviews were conducted across the country and the results have been weighted to the profile of all adults.

Man found dead after gang threatened his pot-bellied pigs

Nick Varley

AMAN died after a fight which started when a gang of youths threatened his pet pot-bellied pigs.

Ronald Smith, aged 49, was found dead outside his home after he joined his son, Joey, aged 20, to remonstrate with the gang.

He was in bed with his wife Margaret, at their home in Frankley, Birmingham, when

they heard the youths just after midnight on Monday.

Mrs Smith, who heard threats made against the nine-week-old pigs, Bill and Ben, went outside to find her husband lying in the road.

"Ron died in my arms. He was a lovely man who would help anybody," she said.

"We were in bed but Joey heard them say that they were going to kill the pigs and burn the house down. We don't know why they wanted

to because we have never had any problems with these lads before.

"Joey went out to remonstrate with the youths because of the threats.

"He followed them round the estate and then they met up with my husband."

Police found a machete at the scene but Mr Smith did not have any stab wounds. He had facial injuries and a cut to the back of his head.

Detective Chief Inspector

Ellie Baker said: "We have launched a murder investigation and a post mortem has been carried out but further tests need to be done to determine the exact cause of death."

Last night three local youths were being questioned. A fourth, found at the scene, was being treated for facial injuries.

A police spokesman said: "We are still looking into his connection with the incident."

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Headingley conversation will not dwell on Waqar's yorker, or Caddick's ears, but on weightier matters linked to county not country: Silverwood's outswinger, Vaughan's cover drive, Stemp's flight.

David Hopps, page 15

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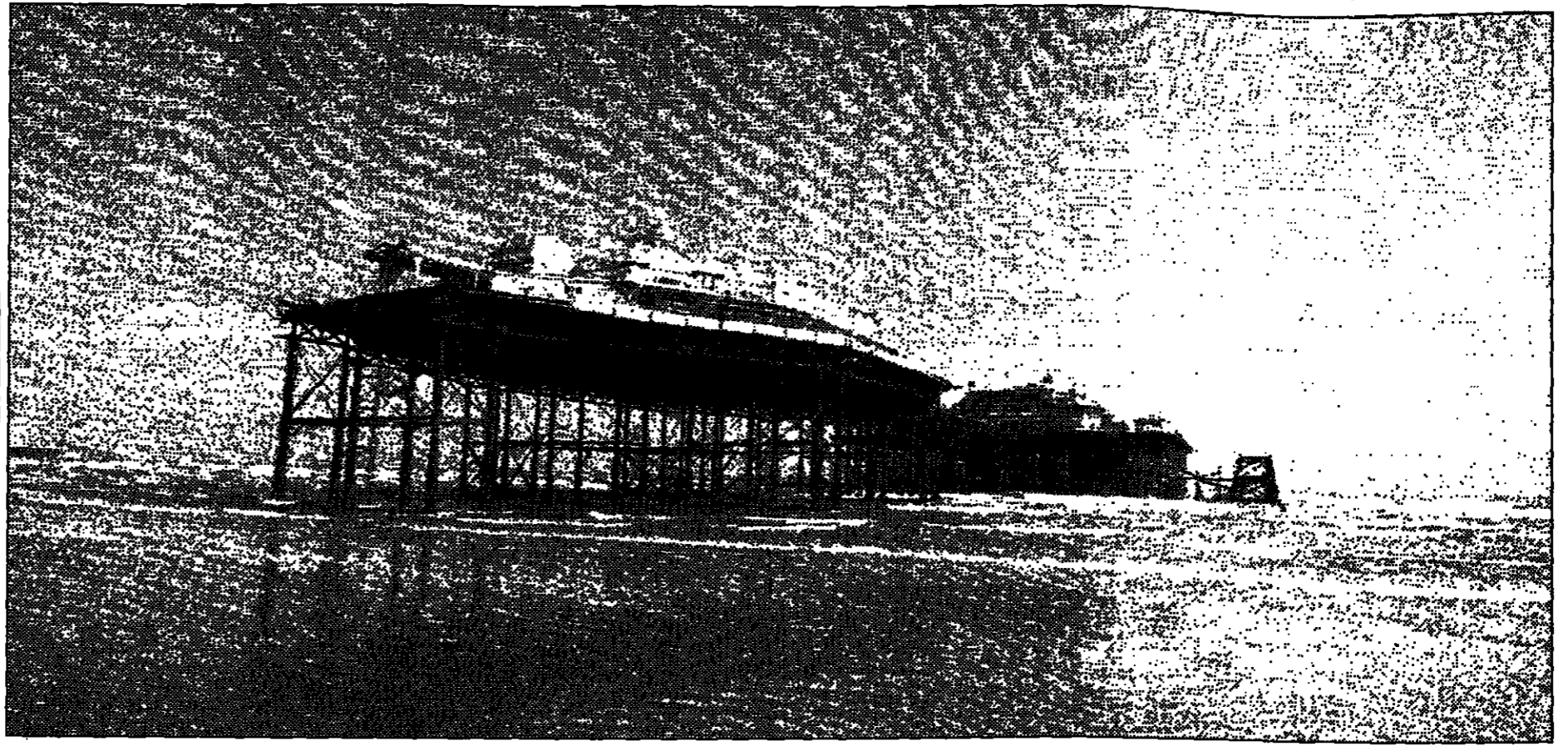
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Lottery grant turns the tide for rotting pier

Maev Kennedy
Heritage Correspondent

HERE was good news at last yesterday for Brighton's most desolate landmark. After decades of decay and storm damage, the rotting hulk of the West Pier, a Grade I listed pier, is to be shored up with almost £1 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

to the pier with the good news yesterday. The fully-restored Palace Pier was always regarded as the rather vulgar neighbour of the elegant West Pier. The campaign began in 1974, when 5,000 residents signed a petition and marched along the front to oppose an application to demolish it. The pier, already in a sad state, was declared too dangerous for the public in 1975, and has lost cast iron and deck planking to every storm since. It was badly damaged by hurricane winds in 1987, and was cut in half by a storm in 1991. It was built in 1866. The Pavilion, which originally seated 1,400 and was converted into a theatre, was added in 1893, and the concert hall in 1916.



Brighton's West Pier, suffering age and storm damage, is to be shored up with the aid of a £1 million lottery grant, and may get a further £5 million to help restore it. PHOTOGRAPH: ROGER BARNER

Few laughs in Laker comedy of errors

Police called as passengers vent anger at 49-hour flight delay

Conal Walsh

HUNDREDS of furious holidaymakers finally left Gatwick for Orlando in Florida yesterday after a delay of 49 hours and nine minutes, vowing never again to travel on Sir Freddie Laker's airline.

faulty replacement aircraft, 12 official delays and the anger of the waiting passengers. Shop manager Keith Brown from Fryden formed a passenger action committee to find out what was happening. "I did something positive and volunteered to act as spokesman."

had been wearing when they arrived at the airport two days earlier. Laker Airways had accommodated them in nearby hotels, but they had been unable to retrieve their baggage, checked in on Sunday. Newlyweds Paul and Marcia Prendergast, both 28, had missed a wedding breakfast on Sunday morning to catch their flight. "We had a beautiful ceremony but now the honeymoon feels as if it's been ruined", Marcia said. Dawn Inslip from Bedford, travelling with her husband and four-year-old daughter

Carly, had paid £2,000 for the holiday. "We booked through Going Places but nobody seems to be going places with Sir Freddie", she said. Few holidaymakers were in any doubt about who to blame. When told Sir Freddie Laker was having a birthday barbecue, John Cunningham from Milton Keynes said: "I would like to see him barbecued alive." Sir Freddie himself denied that he had been celebrating, and sent a letter of apology to his disaffected customers on Monday. "I am fully aware, as a family man, exactly what the annual holiday with the

kids is all about... Regrettably aviation is not an exact science." Some 30 passengers who abandoned their bookings have taken up his offer of a full refund, but others are less easily satisfied. Nicholas Hooper, aged 24, said: "When we were told it was Freddie's birthday we had a great singalong. But I won't tell you some of the words." A Laker Airways spokeswoman last night said: "We have bent over backwards to do everything we can for these passengers. It is very regrettable what has happened.

"No one wanted anything like this to occur, but every airline has delays. It's just very, very sad." "We have done everything possible to make the passengers as comfortable as possible. We put them up in good hotels and laid on meals." The spokeswoman denied that the passengers had not been kept fully informed of developments. "We kept up a steady stream of information," she said. She added that six families, comprising 15 people, had chosen not to take the flight and they would be getting their money back.

News in brief

Howard wrong on extradition

HOME Secretary Michael Howard misdirected himself when he ordered the return to Hong Kong of a businessman who fears he could face the death penalty if forced to stand trial on £4.5 million bribery and corruption charges once the colony is taken over by the Chinese, the High Court ruled yesterday. Lord Justice Henry, sitting with Mrs Justice Ebsworth, said the decision to return 60-year-old Ewan Launder was a "Cabinet decision" taken on the basis that China would fulfil its treaty obligations with the UK and the fugitive would receive a fair trial and be treated humanely. The judge said it was clear Mr Howard "felt himself bound by the collective Cabinet decision" when he should have exercised his personal judgment "on what the real risks of breach of the treaty safeguards were" before signing the extradition warrant. Allowing Mr Launder's application for judicial review, the court gave Mr Howard leave to appeal to the House of Lords. Mr Launder faces trial on 14 charges of accepting bribes from two top Hong Kong businessmen between 1980 and 1982.

Big bang theory

DOCTORS were blamed yesterday for causing two serious explosions in a year in crematoriums by leaving heart pacemakers in bodies. In one blast, at the crematorium in Morden, Surrey, brickwork fell and an arch collapsed. The damage cost £5,000 to repair. Yesterday the cremation industry and local government said the explosions were widespread, and that new European Union rules will make them more dangerous. After seven years of complaining, the Association of Metropolitan Authorities and crematorium operators attacked government inaction. Anthony Wilson, deputy superintendent of Morden Crematorium in Surrey, said: "Doctors should be responsible for removing the pacemakers. But they are most reluctant to accept this responsibility." He added: "New EC rules will change the structure of crematoria so that any explosion won't be able to go up the chimney but be blocked by an extra chamber where smoke is to be burnt off."

Vengeance driver jailed

THE driver of a black cab, who was convicted in the first "vengeance" trial in an English court, was jailed for 12 months yesterday. Peter Gay, aged 38, tried to run over a journalist who had given evidence against him in another court hearing. John Coughlan was targeted three days after his attacker failed to overturn a conviction of threatening him on an earlier occasion. Passing sentence at Southwark crown court in London, Judge Robin Laurie told Gay: "Conduct of this kind will not be tolerated."

'No lunch' costs firms £32m

BRITISH business is losing £32 million a year because workers are skipping lunch breaks, according to a report out today. Office workers are taking fewer and shorter lunchbreaks and most are eating while they work, which takes a toll on their personal well-being and their performance at work. The survey found that more than 25 per cent of UK office-based workers take a break of 30 minutes or less, 20 per cent regularly skip lunch altogether and 2 per cent do so every day.

Bra advert upheld

A GOSSARD bra advertisement, which attracted a record 249 complaints, was acceptable, the Advertising Standards Authority ruled yesterday. The posters showed a woman wearing a translucent black bra and briefs, lying outstretched in long grass. Complainants, who included an MP and Leeds city council, said it was sexist and offensive. — Andrew Cuff

BBC insists expensive logo revamp will save money

Officials say new black and white design is needed in digital TV age

Andrew Cuff
Media Correspondent

AN EXPENSIVE revamp of the BBC's corporate logo will save licence payers' cash, the corporation insisted yesterday. It dismissed as guesswork claims that a small change to the distinctive logo could cost as much as £5 million to introduce across the BBC. The nine-year-old logo, which contains the letters BBC in sloping boxes with three coloured lines under-

neath, could be replaced by a simplified, straightened out black-and-white version. The BBC's corporate affairs directorate and the image consultants Lambie Nairn, who added the red, green and blue lines to the logo, have yet to reach a decision. But the BBC, which came under fire from Conservative backbenchers for squandering licence fee income, said it had one of the best known brands in the world. The review was ordered following the announcement in May of new digital televi-

sion services. "It will be vital that those services are easily identified in the digital landscape of many TV and online services available in the home," said a BBC spokesman. "Proposals include simplifying the design and using it as the unifying symbol across all BBC departments and services. We are confident major savings can be achieved." The BBC said the italic design made the current logo difficult and costly to apply, particularly on screen. A gradual roll-out of the logo would spread the cost, as yet unquantified — over a number of years, while there would be savings on stationery, literature and

using the logo on screen, a spokesman said. BBC programme-makers also came in for criticism yesterday, with the publication of the corporation's quarterly complaints bulletin. It upheld Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, who said he had agreed to take part in a series of features on prison policy on the understanding his contribution would be the last, but the agreement was broken. Derek Jameson was criticised for forceful views in favour of Gerry Adams, the president of Sinn Fein, and others in the party's leadership, on his Radio 2 show, The Jamesons. Sir Christopher Bland, the BBC's chairman, said the findings of the programme complaints unit were "evidence of a robust complaints procedure" and that most of those upheld were errors of judgment.



The BBC's current logo, left, could be replaced by a simplified, upright version, to mark new digital TV

23 per cent of the 269 complaints received about 202 items between April and June. Radio 4's The World Tonight was criticised following a complaint from

Simon Mayo's Radio 1 show was censured for a "salacious and offensive" story told by a guest in the programme's "Confessions" slot of how, as a child, he had urinated in the mouth of his sleeping sister.

Jail for BAe protesters

Martin Wainwright

TWO MEN were each given a month in prison yesterday arising from an attempted riot on a British Aerospace factory in support of the four women who took hammer to a Hawk aircraft destined for East Timor. But the men, one a Red Cross worker, were only given jail terms after a stipendiary magistrate had called them "particularly nice people", and appealed in vain for them to accept a court order binding them over to keep the peace. The sentence was also stayed immediately after the hearing at Pocklington, North Yorkshire, when Richard Smith, aged 34, and David Durham, aged 33, lodged an

appeal. Three others — Jen Parker, aged 21, who lives with Durham in London, Tracy Hart, aged 23, of Leeds, and John Lyles, a Quaker aged 68, of Hull — who joined the pair to cut holes in the security fence at British Aerospace's Brough plant, on the Humber estuary, were found guilty of causing damage of more than £200 and given conditional discharges. After the hearing they also expressed determination to continue with protests against the sale of British military equipment to Indonesia allegedly for use against civilians in East Timor. Smith, who works for the Red Cross in Birmingham, and Durham were found guilty of blemishing the peace by trying to break into the Brough plant last month. The

court heard that they had staged the raid to support four women of the Women into Ploughshares campaign who were acquitted by a Liverpool court women after they justified £500,000 of damage done by them to the Hawk as having prevented the greater crime of assisting genocide. After both men refused to be bound over, the stipendiary magistrate, Neville White, told them: "I have some sympathy for your position. The last thing I want to do is send particularly nice people like you to jail." He added that the men should not consider themselves martyrs because their sentence was not for the demonstration but for contempt of court in refusing to accept their punishment.

Life 'discovered' on Mars

PRIMITIVE life may have once existed on Mars, according to evidence from the American space agency Nasa. Scientists convinced that a fossil somehow found its way into a Martian meteorite are expected to reveal their findings next week. The rock, uncovered in 1984 in Antarctica, is one of 12 to hit the Earth after leaving the red planet millions of years ago. British scientists at the Natural History Museum have already studied fragments of the melon-sized meteorite, revealing remnants of organic material possibly from underground water reserves. Mars has a number of dried up river beds, and it is thought that subterranean

pools could have provided a home for primitive life forms. The study of fossils — formed when a dead organism's outline is preserved in rock — has provided some of the biggest clues to the development of life on Earth and could now do the same for Mars. Monica Grady of the Natural History Museum said the findings, if correct, were some of the most sensational in scientific history. "It's entirely possible that very, very primitive organisms might have arisen," she told the BBC. "I'm not talking about ammonites or corals or anything like that but something incredibly primitive such as micro-fossils from highly primitive organisms. It's absolutely fascinating to find these."

Astronomer Patrick Moore said more evidence was needed, however, before people started jumping to conclusions. "For a long time we have known there was running water on Mars because we have seen the evidence of it. There has long been the theory that life started there but died out," he said. "But for all that I still need to be convinced by hard evidence. It is still not confirmed that these meteorites definitely came from Mars." The findings were due to be published in the American journal Science, on Friday week. But publishers were last night meeting in Washington to consider bringing the announcement date forward as news of the discovery leaked out.

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ISLAM ON PROBATION: In the first of a series of three articles, John Hooper in Ankara asks whether the fundamentalist bark of the new government has proved worse than its bite

Turkey's new beginning turns into a false dawn

IT HAD just turned midnight, Thursday had become Friday - the Muslim holy day. In the Mon Amour club, at least 20 women in skimpy dresses were sitting at a bar festooned with red lights. Across town, in a casino beneath the Etiler hotel, silken-haired croupiers were shuffling cards and spinning wheels as another night's gambling started.

On the Kral pop video channel, some male beefcake with designer stubble was getting out of a BMW convertible in pursuit of a mini-skirted girl. A graphic proclaimed that the song was in the Burger King Top 20. It takes a deep swig of raki to believe this is a city run for the past two years by an Islamist mayor, the capital of a country which for the past two months has been led by an Islamist prime minister.

They have agreed to renew the mandate of the United States-led air force which operates out of southern Turkey to protect Iraq's Kurds. In opposition, they had called it an "occupying force". They have decreed another four months of emergency rule in the south-east, where Turkish security forces are fighting Kurdish guerrillas. In opposition, they had demanded it be ended.

Despite years of anti-Zionist rhetoric, Refah deputies have voted for an investment protection agreement with Israel. And, having bitterly and repeatedly criticised the use of arbitrary measures by previous administrations, the new government is using so-called "authorisation laws" which give a decree the force of an act of parliament.

Refah's record in national government is consistent with its performance in the city halls. In Istanbul, which also has an Islamist administration, Refah councillors have made only the most timid gestures towards creating a more devout society. They have banned loud music after lam and restored the traditional Ramadan practice of firing a cannon at the end of each day's fasting. They had also planned to repaint kerb markings in Islamic green and white, but quickly abandoned the idea when it was explained that this would violate international transport agreements.

Foreigners resident in Istanbul say the most obvious change is an improvement to services: the streets are cleaned more thoroughly, the rubbish collected more often. For many, it is now clear that the bark of Turkey's Islamists was worse than their bite.

"The Refah party is sending out signals that it is no different from other parties," one of Turkey's most respected columnists, Mehmet Ali Birand, wrote last month. "Like other parties, it says one thing in opposition but adopts a different approach in government... Personally, I believe that this is highly encouraging for the future."

What is at stake can scarcely be stressed too much. Turkey has been a keystone of Western security policy, to an even greater extent that Iran was under the Shah. It has a half a million men in the military and is viewed by the US and most of its allies as a bastion against nationalism in Russia, fundamentalism in Iran and potentially troublesome governments in Syria and Iraq. The scope for conflict were Turkey, like Iran, to "go Islamic" would be immense.

Yet Western diplomats seem strikingly relaxed about Refah's arrival in government. They note that the party has been playing by the rules of Turkish democracy for 13 years. Its avuncular leader has been doing so for even longer. They argue that Refah is not fundamentalist but Islamist, and that, if a comparison is to be made, it should be with western Europe's Christian Democrats.

Despite repeated calls to the party's offices in Istanbul and Ankara, Refah was unable to provide a spokesman to discuss these points. But put them to Nilufer Narli and she lifts an eyebrow and purses her lips in incredulity. Dr Narli, an associate professor at Marmara university who has just completed a study of Refah's campus activities for the Ford Foundation, offers a definition of the party membership which would apply to fundamentalists elsewhere.

The real question is: are Refah's members ready for an "historic compromise" or are they concealing their true aims for the welfare of Islam?



Refah and its leader, Necmettin Erbakan (above), have made a remarkable succession of U-turns since coming to power

Refah has played the democratic game for more than a decade. "But the real question is: are Refah's members ready for an historic compromise with the system, like the one the Italian Communists aspired to, or are they practising takfir - the concealment of one's true aims for the welfare of Islam?" She suspects the answer depends on the individual member. "Maybe Erbakan himself wants an historic compromise, but others..."

Erkin Kalaycioglu, professor of political science at Bosphorus university, has examined Refah from a different position by studying its voters. He found the movement was strong among those opposed to the establishment: the Kurds in the south-east, the very poor, and the lower middle-class craftsmen threatened by the advance of neo-liberal capitalism.

"The real difference between Refah voters and the voters of other parties was how they approached Islam," he says. "If you read the Islamists' newspapers, you'll see that what they're telling their voters is: 'You haven't given us enough votes to govern alone. We have to act like this.' Their argument is, 'Give us more power and then see what we can do.'"

Many secular Turks are worried that their country's allies are being lulled into wishful or audacious thinking by the Islamists' unexpected regard for Western interests. Last month, a spokesman for the US state department was quoted in the Turkish press as saying that what mattered to Washington was not whether a society was secular, but whether it was democratic.

EU squeezes deal from Mostar separatists

THE European Union scored a hard-fought diplomatic victory in Mostar yesterday when Muslim and Croat local leaders agreed to run the town in southern Bosnia together in a multi-ethnic council. The many pitfalls on the way to Bosnia's September elections still gape as wide as ever, but the deal - reached after four days of intensive negotiations - will almost certainly avert a humiliating withdrawal from the town by a European administration which took on Mostar's reunification as a special project two years ago.

The EU special envoy, Sir Martin Garrod, said he expected the EU presidency to halt withdrawal preparations already under way and to approve a five-month extension of the mission, "with the aim of assisting and stabilising" the new joint council. The deal ends a month-long boycott of the new council by Bosnian Croats after they lost local elections in June. But the Mostar crisis has produced some troubling pointers. A British official in the town pointed out yesterday that the refusal by Croat hardliners to accept an election result in a town of 60,000 people had emboldened diplomats and political leaders across the world.

Milosevic and Tudjman meet. PRESIDENT Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia and his arch-rival, President Franjo Tudjman, of Croatia will meet today in Athens to discuss normalising ties between their two countries. The surprise meeting of the two most powerful politicians in former Yugoslavia would be their first bilateral summit since secret talks in April 1991 in northern Serbia, where they were widely believed to have discussed dividing neighbouring Bosnia. The war in former Yugoslavia started just over two months later.

A statement from Mr Tudjman's office said the subject would be normalising ties. The Yugoslav state news agency Tanjug said that was assumed to be the topic. - AP. The court is meant to rule within 60 days. The Mostar Croats had objected to any time limit, but in the final wording the deadline is not binding. It is not specified which court will make the ruling. If member states approve, a

90-strong force of European police monitors, which has been widely credited with bringing stability to the town, will stay on until the end of December. Safet Orucevic, the Muslim mayor of eastern Mostar, said he was confident the Croats would not use the court case to block the work of the council. He said the agreement would accelerate work to put life into the two-year-old Muslim-Croat Federation, which remains a loose alliance. Following a meeting last week between President Clinton and the Croatian president, Franjo Tudjman, the Bosnian Croats promised to dissolve their own mini-state, Herceg-Bosna, by tomorrow to allow its absorption into the federation.

But Boro Puljic yesterday repeated a persistent Croat insistence that the abolition of Herceg-Bosna would be contingent on the dismantling of Muslim-dominated institutions in Sarajevo. Even if these separatist bodies are dissolved on paper, most diplomats believe the real levers of power will remain in the separate nationalist camps.

Mile Puljic said yesterday that even while the federation was being painstakingly built, the ethnic map of federation territory was becoming more segregated as Croats abandon isolated pockets in mainly Muslim areas and move to Croat-dominated Herzegovina in the south. Yesterday's agreement is unlikely to have much immediate impact on life in Mostar. Although the Croat mayor, Mijo Brajkovic, said yesterday that there was already freedom of movement across the former front line, only women, children and the elderly cross in safety. A group of young Croat men who gathered outside the EU headquarters in Mostar yesterday vowed that no Muslim men would ever step into western Mostar.

Mubarak urged to intervene in heresy case

Ben Faulks in Cairo. AN Egyptian human rights group has urged President Hosni Mubarak to intervene after the country's highest court upheld a ruling that a university professor must divorce his wife because he was deemed to have renounced Islam. The decision on Monday by the Court of Cassation against Nasr Hamed Abu Zeid, aged 54, has sent shockwaves through the country's secular community, and observers say it is likely to discourage moderate Islamists from entering mainstream politics. "This is a dark day for

the Egyptian legal system and shows the extent of Islamic influence in the country," said Abdel Aziz Mohammed, chairman of the Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights and a defence lawyer in the case. The organisation urged Mr Mubarak to intervene immediately, "not only to protect Professor Abu Zeid but to defend the whole of Egyptian society". Mr Abu Zeid incensed hardline Islamists when, as a professor in Islamic studies at Cairo university, he said the Koran should be locked at within its socio-political context, and Islamic teachings should evolve with society. To some Islamists, this

rejected the very tenets of Islam. In June 1995, a lower court ruled that Abu Zeid's writings on religion "attacked" and "incited disrespect" for Islam, and ordered his divorce on the grounds that he was an apostate and therefore could not be married to a Muslim woman. The case was brought under *hadda*, a principle of Islamic law which allows individuals to bring cases against those they consider have offended Islam. Mr Abu Zeid, who fled to the Netherlands with his wife, Ibtihal Younis, after the trouble erupted, contested the decision. The verdict had been widely expected to be overturned.

Ms Younis said of the lawyers who brought the case: "They are the losers. What they did has outraged people who were neutral and inflamed the world against them." The ruling had "no effect" on the couple because they intend to stay together, she said. The Egyptian government, anxious at the number of such cases being brought to court, had passed legislation which meant *hadda* cases had to go through the state prosecutor's office. And in what was considered a convenient get-out clause for the Court of Cassation in the Abu Zeid case, the government had barred

Inmates tortured, say jail doctors

Chris Nuttall in Ankara

MOST doctors in Turkey who examine detainees believe nearly everyone who is taken into custody is tortured, according to Physicians for Human Rights. The group, based in Boston, Massachusetts, said doctors were unwilling accomplices to torture, coerced by police to cover up the physical evidence of abuse. The results of its two-year investigation into torture in Turkey are published in the Journal of the American Medical Association today. PHR interviewed physicians and torture victims, carried out a survey among 80 doctors who officially examine detainees and analysed more than 150 official medical reports on prisoners.

PHR said 96 per cent of doctors surveyed believed that torture was a problem in Turkey, while 60 per cent believed that nearly everyone who was detained was tortured. It said this was probably an underestimation, as 76 per cent did not consider beatings alone to amount to torture. Its interviews with forensic doctors indicated that some had observed evidence of torture in the cases of hundreds, even thousands, of detainees in recent years.

"The Turkish police may respond to physicians' attempts to perform proper examinations of torture survivors with overt threats of physical harm to the physician, by destroying the medical reports, or by simply obtaining a favourable report from a more compliant physician," said Dr Vincent Iacopino, a co-author of the report. "Since physicians are state employees, they are vulnerable to threats that they will lose their positions if they do not comply." Torture victims complained of doctors sitting at a distance from them and failing to carry out a physical examination before recording in their reports that they found no evidence of injury.

The PHR report gives numerous accounts of torture from male and female victims, including various forms of suspension above the ground, beatings, sexual violations, testicle squeezing, electric shocks and spraying with cold pressurised water. In a letter sent with the report last week to the new prime minister, Necmettin Erbakan, PHR said: "We believe that your government has the unique opportunity to face the fact of torture in Turkey and eliminate the practice once and for all."

News in brief

Mexico holds 'drug lord'. Mexican authorities have captured the suspected drug lord, Pedro Lupercio Serrano, known as the chief of the Jalisco drug cartel, with his brother, Oscar Gerardo Lupercio Serratos, and two other men, the attorney-general's office said. - Reuters.

Megawati obeys. Indonesia's ousted opposition leader, Megawati Sukarnoputri, will obey a police summons for questioning in connection with recent riots in Jakarta, an aide said yesterday. - Reuters.

Lenin toppled. A statue of Lenin toppled from its pedestal and killed a boy, aged 15, who was buried yesterday in Khorinsk, Siberia. - AP.

Blaze victims. A wooden warehouse used as a temporary shelter for the homeless in Sao Paulo went up in flames yesterday, killing 10 people, three of them children, the fire department said. - AP.

Saxony upsets Kohl's EU dream

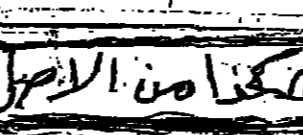
Brussels' ruling on job subsidies has been rudely defied, writes Ian Traynor in Bonn. He set the alarm bells ringing in Bonn. In bluntly stating that Brussels' writ does not run in Saxony, Mr Biedenkopf has mounted the biggest challenge to the chancellor's European integrationism from within Mr Kohl's own party. "It is completely inconceivable that Brussels should decide

the government is scandalised but the Biedenkopf camp talks of 'Euro-dictatorship'. The Saxony premier is marshalling a grass-roots mutiny and shows no sign of backing down. The unions, by nature opponents of Biedenkopf conservatism, back him. The opposition Social Democrats in the state are rallying round. Given the public reluctance to swap the German mark for a single European currency, consumers' and farmers' grievances over the beef crisis, the rising resentment at Germany footing the lion's share of the EU bill, and now the perceived injustice of EU regulations threatening to destroy German jobs, Mr Kohl has his work cut out to keep the blue and gold banners flying.

side how eastern Germany is to be rebuilt." Mr Biedenkopf thundered in an interview published on Monday. "This conflict is extraordinary serious. Brussels can't determine whether a certain region needs five million marks to save jobs. You can only know that locally. If you want to damage Europe, then

this kind of centralism is what will damage it." Jacques Santer, European Commission chief, and the competition commissioner, Karel van Miert, have denounced Saxony's campaign as "utterly unacceptable". The Bonn government is scandalised by Mr Biedenkopf's solo moves. But the Biedenkopf camp talks of "Euro-dictatorship" and "Euro-tyranny".

thrown down the gauntlet to Brussels and Mr Kohl by defying the European Commission. "Until now the German chancellor has seen his most dangerous Euro-opponents in Great Britain," commented the news magazine Der Spiegel. "But since last week, Helmut Kohl knows that it is a party colleague from Saxony who could wreck his dream of a united Europe." The colleague is Kurt Biedenkopf, the Saxony premier, arguably the most popular state leader in the east. At issue is the seemingly trifling matter of up to 2100 million in state subsidies to Volkswagen, which is building two car plants in the state in an investment worth 21.5 billion. Brussels banned the subsidies and threatened Saxony with a European Court case. Mr Biedenkopf, claiming that 23,000 jobs were at stake, ignored the commission and paid the cash to Volkswagen.



News in brief

Syria turns down Israeli peace offer

SYRIA yesterday rejected an offer by Israel's prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, to resume peace talks...

Students strike over deaths

THOUSANDS of Palestinian students staged a one-day protest strike yesterday at the use of excessive force by Yasser Arafat's security forces...

Durban robbery nets £6m

ROBBERS took 40 million rand (\$6 million) from the offices of a Durban security firm yesterday...

Inquiry into police ordered

THE AUSTRALIAN government has ordered an inquiry into the country's federal police force after allegations of corruption...

Herpes virus 'breakthrough'

ISRAELI scientists yesterday claimed to have developed an anti-viral cream based on a microscopic seaweed that preliminary tests suggest is effective in treating herpes lesions...

US reviews Nazi loot role

A UNITED STATES envoy said yesterday that the US needed to examine its own role in handling Nazi funds looted from Jews and turned over to Washington at the end of the second world war...

Dissident 'died of torture'

A MEMBER of the political party of the Burmese democracy leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, has died after being tortured in prison, a dissidents' group said yesterday...

Fitting end to old condom

AN AUSTRIAN body-painter has invented a "liquid condom" which can be painted on and allowed to set in place, creating a bespoke contraceptive...

Miranda Richardson would love to do a Fiona Shaw, playing some of the big Shakespearean parts. "I played Richard and Bolingbroke, and Antony and Cleopatra. And Sir Thomas More - God, I loved that part."

Republican primaries expose party split between religious rightwingers and pro-choice moderates

Dole faces abortion policy dilemmas

Republicans support the legal right of a woman to an abortion. But the activists who increasingly run the party machinery and vote in internal elections tend to be "pro-life" and are increasingly militant...

The mayor and police chief of San Diego have said an Oriental martial arts weapon called a nunchaku will be used against protesters, and that they will enforce "pain compliance"...

Representatives and the Senate could be damaged by fielding such uncompromising anti-abortion candidates. Democrats in Georgia, who had almost despaired of keeping the Senate seat being vacated by the former chairman of the armed services committee, Sam Nunn, are increasingly confident of success...

Conventional wisdom in the conservative southern state was that Guy Miller, a sternly anti-abortion candidate, would win easily. But the latest opinion polls show him neck and neck with Johnny Isaakson, a local politician who has waged a spirited campaign purely on "a woman's right to choose"...

The race has until now received little publicity because of the Olympics, but Georgia's airwaves have this week delivered a deluge of Mr Isaakson's adverts, which accuse his opponents of "wanting to make criminals out of women and their doctors"...

'If the police want the world to see them torturing Christians who are trying to save babies, then shame on them'

rods connected by loops of braided leather. Twisted around the arm they can cause intense pain, and are used by San Diego police in preference to truncheons. "If the San Diego police want the world to see them torturing Christians who are trying to save babies, then shame on them"

Luggage trail aids air bomb theory

CASH investigators combed the sea floor off eastern Long Island have found a trail of luggage several miles away from the rest of the wreckage of TWA Flight 800, reinforcing their suspicion that it was a bomb in the left's baggage hold that brought down the Boeing-747 last month...

Sunny playground of deposed dictators

Tyrants don't die, they retire to Panama, writes Phil Gunson in the capital himself he is swelling the ranks of ex-dictators - Manuel Antonio Noriega. Perhaps with this in mind, Gen Cedras' wife Yammick declined the offer of a beach house on Contadora and they now live with their three children, nanny and, curiously, the former army chief of staff, General Philippe Blamby, in the exclusive Punta Faidita district of Panama City...

Cannabis clinic raid may backfire on attorney-general

long as the cannabis was used to alleviate the nausea and loss of appetite experienced by people with Aids and cancer, and to reduce eye pressure in glaucoma, which causes blindness. In the Sunday raid, state narcotic agents smashed down the door - despite a volunteer's offer to open it - and hauled away three lorry loads of evidence, including 40lb of marijuana and tens of thousands of dollars in cash. Authorities allege that the club was allowing unauthorised nurses at the club have written to newspapers that "sick and dying people are being made to suffer". The raid was organised by California's attorney-general, Dan Lungren, a law-and-order conservative who has been mentioned as a possible vice-presidential candidate for Bob Dole's attempt at the presidency. Mr Lungren has supported the veto by the Republican governor, Pete Wilson, of two bills that would have allowed patients to grow and smoke the drug. In November, under California's plebiscite system, voters will be asked to pass a proposition drawn up by the club that would permit the medicinal use of marijuana. Unofficial polls give it a 65 per cent chance of success. Mr Lungren's campaign may unintentionally assist its passage, as many people see the raid as timed to boost his own political standing at the Republican Party's convention in San Diego next week. Now, an influential member of the California state assembly is asking the US attorney-general, Janet Reno, to investigate Mr Lungren for allegedly misusing his office for political purposes. He ordered the raid, but he also co-chairs an activist group dedicated to defeating November's proposition. By mixing these two roles, he may have broken a US law restricting state officials from using their position to further their political aims. The San Francisco city council added its voice by passing a resolution condemning him and asking the city's health department to issue a "declaration of medical emergency" permitting the use of medicinal cannabis. America's 25-year-old "war on drugs" has risen to such intensity that conservatives will not tolerate any cannabis use for medicinal or even research purposes. Only eight people in the United States are permitted to use natural marijuana, and scientists have been unable to conduct experiments because they cannot get permission to grow the raw material.



A man walks by a burning pipeline in Tesalia, southern Colombia. Rebels of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia are blamed for dynamiting oil installations in the remote region where coca farmers are protesting against government plans to fumigate their crops PHOTOGRAPH: FERNANDO LLANO

Luggage trail aids air bomb theory

CASH investigators combed the sea floor off eastern Long Island have found a trail of luggage several miles away from the rest of the wreckage of TWA Flight 800, reinforcing their suspicion that it was a bomb in the left's baggage hold that brought down the Boeing-747 last month...

him on a plane out of the country. After a brief stop in El Salvador, he was granted asylum by Panama, where he is now busying himself with multimillion dollar property deals. Guatemala's somewhat feeble attempts to have him extradited for treason and embezzlement of state funds have been rejected on the grounds of "political persecution" though his return would be more of an embarrassment than a triumph for the current government. Panama made a name for itself as a tyrant's retirement home in 1979 when, at the request of Washington, it welcomed the Shah of Iran. His brief sojourn on the Panamanian island of Contadora was not an unqualified success. He and his wife made it abundantly clear on their departure that they considered themselves to have been fleeced by the welcoming committee, headed by a man who, a decade later, would

dras tells friends he is writing frequent Las Bovedas, a classy restaurant in the old town where he can indulge a passion for jazz. His wife is rumoured to have favoured a move to Cerro Azul, a mountain near the airport where Mr Serrano is creating an exclusive housing development with sports facilities, called the Hacienda Country Club. The 6,900-acre project is being developed in association with several local investors with good political connections. They include an unindicted co-conspirator in the Noriega American drugs trial, as well as a former director of Banaico, a Panamanian bank which collapsed in January after years of service to the money-laundering community. But all is not well, it seems. "Serrano is in financial difficulties," a Panamanian business source said. Unconfirmed rumours also have it that Gen Cedras visited the project but came away annoyed at the treatment he received. Sometimes, one small country is just not big enough for two ex-dictators.

Wreckage from the aircraft is being taken to a hangar in Calverton, Long Island, where federal investigators first test for explosive residues and then hunt for any other clues to the crash. Investigators insist that they are still considering three possible causes for the crash: a bomb, a missile or a mechanical failure. The missile theory, all but discounted a week ago, has been revived by reports that some witnesses saw what may have been a test firing in the same area several days before the crash. So far investigators have learnt most from the location of the jet's 120th compartment from the nose and first-class compartment was found a mile and a half away from debris from the rest of the aircraft, suggesting that the plane was decapitated by a blast. With the latest discovery of luggage nearer to Kennedy airport, investigators have now found debris along a six mile track, suggesting that most of the aircraft may have remained airborne for 24 seconds after the initial explosion. Meanwhile other investigators are heading for Israel to examine the bomb-making methods of Hussein al-Mkdad, a Hizbullah terrorist who blew off his legs and one arm while assembling an explosive device in a Jerusalem hotel.

Cannabis clinic raid may backfire on attorney-general

OFFICIALS of a cannabis "clinic" in San Francisco that had openly sold the drug to the sick and elderly, against a judge's decision to close it after a weekend raid by state narcotics agents. The "Cannabis Buyers' Club" dispensed the drug to 11,000 members for five years from a building one mile from the city hall, with the authorities' full knowledge. The city's previous mayor and former police chief, Frank Jordan, allowed it to function as

long as the cannabis was used to alleviate the nausea and loss of appetite experienced by people with Aids and cancer, and to reduce eye pressure in glaucoma, which causes blindness. In the Sunday raid, state narcotic agents smashed down the door - despite a volunteer's offer to open it - and hauled away three lorry loads of evidence, including 40lb of marijuana and tens of thousands of dollars in cash. Authorities allege that the club was allowing unauthorised nurses at the club have written to newspapers that "sick and dying people are being made to suffer". The raid was organised by California's attorney-general, Dan Lungren, a law-and-order conservative who has been mentioned as a possible vice-presidential candidate for Bob Dole's attempt at the presidency. Mr Lungren has supported the veto by the Republican governor, Pete Wilson, of two bills that would have allowed patients to grow and smoke the drug. In November, under California's plebiscite system, voters will be asked to pass a proposition drawn up by the club that would permit the medicinal use of marijuana. Unofficial polls give it a 65 per cent chance of success. Mr Lungren's campaign may unintentionally assist its passage, as many people see the raid as timed to boost his own political standing at the Republican Party's convention in San Diego next week. Now, an influential member of the California state assembly is asking the US attorney-general, Janet Reno, to investigate Mr Lungren for allegedly misusing his office for political purposes. He ordered the raid, but he also co-chairs an activist group dedicated to defeating November's proposition. By mixing these two roles, he may have broken a US law restricting state officials from using their position to further their political aims. The San Francisco city council added its voice by passing a resolution condemning him and asking the city's health department to issue a "declaration of medical emergency" permitting the use of medicinal cannabis. America's 25-year-old "war on drugs" has risen to such intensity that conservatives will not tolerate any cannabis use for medicinal or even research purposes. Only eight people in the United States are permitted to use natural marijuana, and scientists have been unable to conduct experiments because they cannot get permission to grow the raw material.

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Blair's faltering lead

Labour remains high but Tories won't give up

LOGICALLY, there is absolutely nothing for Tony Blair to worry about in a 12-point Labour lead in the opinion polls. Clement Attlee won in 1945 by an 8-point margin. Harold Wilson took the 1966 election by one of six. If Mr Blair can defend today's lead, even a decent-sized chunk of it, for no more than another nine months, he should be able to join his great predecessors as only the third Labour leader to take his party to a working majority in the Commons. He has defended a large lead successfully for two years, so why should he not be able to see the job through?

No reason at all, as far as theory goes. The chemistry of the real world, though, may just be another matter. Both the Conservatives and Labour will look at this morning's ICM survey and feel extremely twitchy; the Tories because they can feel an unaccustomed momentum growing beneath them, and Labour because the sandcastle on which they have sat for so long suddenly feels smaller than they are used to. In April, Labour led by 21. Each subsequent month has seen that margin chipped away. Now, all of a sudden, it has been cut by three points in one go, and 21 has turned into 12. Opinion polls are reflections of events, rather than events in their own right. But this one could be a psychologically-important catalyst of a new phase of the contest.

Psychology is important in modern, marketing-driven politics. Looking like a loser is the next step to being one. Yet the biggest error that either major party could make in assessing the latest polls is to assume that Labour's vote is dissipating. It is not, and the figures show a consistent pattern of solid support at around the 45 per cent mark, which nothing — yet — has been able to shift. The lead may have dwindled, but that is not because the vote is falling. It is because the shuffles and transfers of

allegiance in the non-Labour part of the electorate seem to be resolving themselves in the Tories' favour, as they were always likely to do. In that sense, there is nothing in this poll that Mr Blair and his advisers have not been able to see coming from a long way off. It was always going to get tighter, and the likelihood now is that it will get tighter still. This month's poll shows a startling shift towards the Conservatives among white-collar voters (the ones to whom Mr Blair appeals), which may be a freak, or may be the start of something. Logic, again, would suggest it is a reward to the Tories for some decent economic news combined with a reprimand to Labour for a generally unattractive end-of-term performance. But it is simply too early to say, and August would be an odd time to say it anyway, with 99 point something per cent of the population even less inclined to think about elections now than usual. The feel of the country for a long time has been that people have made up their minds to vote Labour next time. Nothing in today's poll negates that fact. It simply acts as a reminder that many things are still possible if Labour really does start to throw its advantage away.

Don't assume that this election is unwinnable by the Conservatives. They may look a mess, sound a mess, and be a mess, but the form-book tells you that they are course and distance winners, with a winning pedigree going back into the last century. Defeating the Tories is hard work. They never give up. They never give in. More often than not, people in this country support them. The people haven't changed as much as all that, as the attitude questions in the ICM survey eloquently reveal this morning. It was never going to be easy. But don't panic. If there was an election today, they would still be out on their ears.

Hounding the unemployed

Peter Lilley should pursue social justice as well as fraud

A QUESTION for all liberal-minded Guardian readers: if you saw someone regularly collecting £60 for working on a Sunday and you knew for certain they were drawing full unemployment pay, would you a) feel it legitimate to snoop on them or b) at least admit that something should be done about it? Most people would probably admit that something should be done, while feeling a little uneasy about spilling the beans themselves. Actually, in this case, there's no need to do anything because nothing illegal is happening. Under the curious rules governing unemployment pay, if you earn more than £2 a day you forfeit the whole of that day's dole money. But you are allowed to earn up to a weekly maximum of £61 before losing all unemployment benefit (currently £48.25 a week). So, if you choose to do your job on a Sunday, then you can legally claim a whole week's unemployment pay because it is computed on a Monday to Saturday basis and excludes Sundays.

and be OK. None of this implies that the authorities shouldn't pursue real fraudsters who are ripping off the taxpayer. Of course they should. But let's not pretend that it's going to eliminate the public sector borrowing requirement or that fraud by the poor is more worthy of pursuit than fraud by the rich.

Peter Lilley's campaign to shop benefit fraudsters would have a lot more legitimacy if it hadn't been plucked out of the air with a general election in the offing and after the Conservatives have been in office for 17 years. If it's such a serious problem, why didn't they do this ages ago? It would also have added greater legitimacy to the initiative if the Government had simultaneously declared war on all other people and companies illegally depriving the Revenue of income, including landlords exploiting housing benefit and companies which have lost the habit of paying tax.

The Government has been quick to hound sellers of the Big Issue trying to use benefits as a "hand-out", but the officers who used to search for poor people who were eligible for benefits but not claiming them (including up to a million pensioners) are a vanishing breed. It is a fair bet that the money the Government is "saving" from people not claiming benefits they are entitled to exceeds what is lost as a result of fraud by the unemployed. That doesn't, in any sense, justify illegal claimants but it does mean that fraud and social justice should be equally pursued.

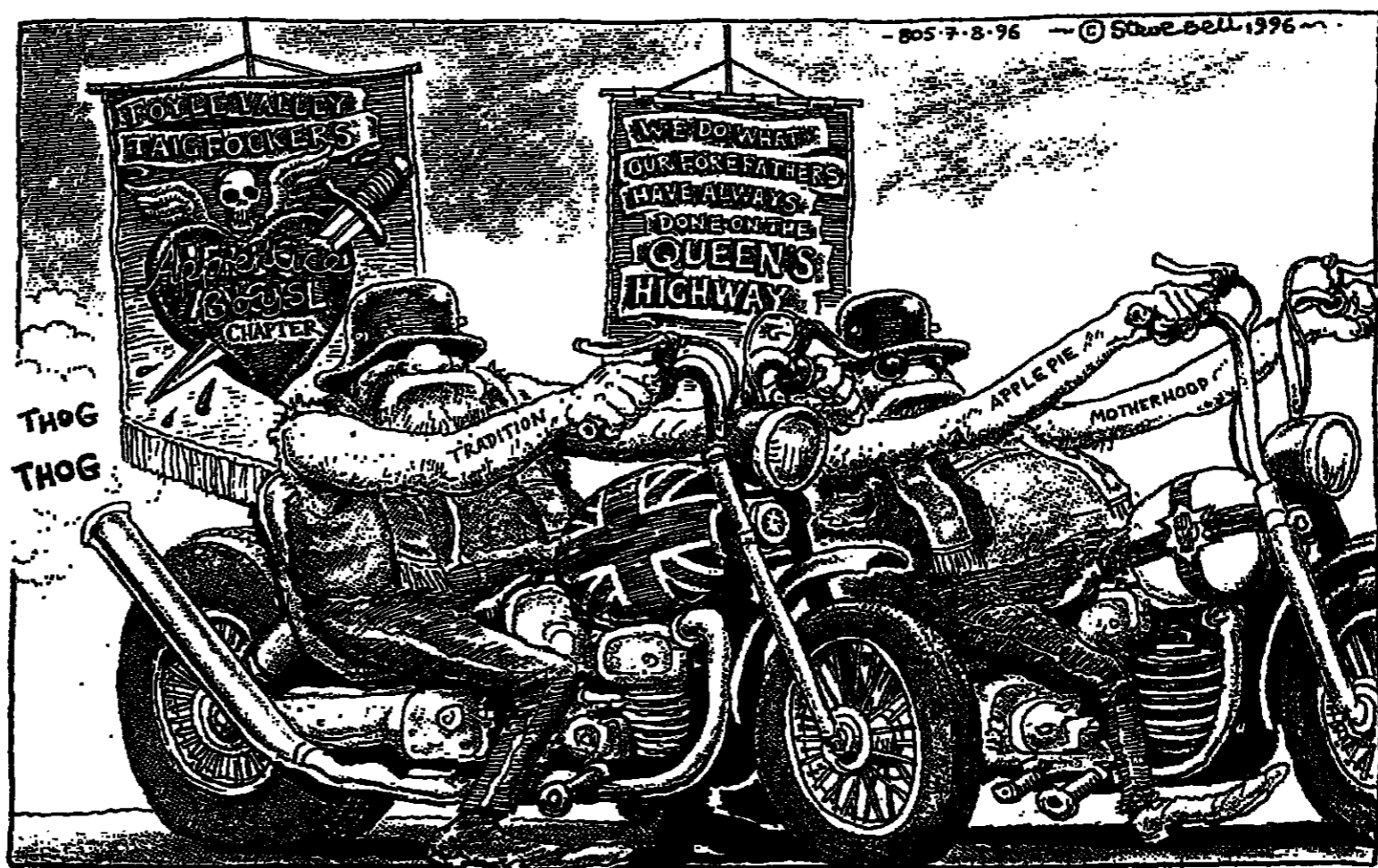
The stamps of disapproval

The PO's 5 great women are nothing if not controversial

WHILE Oftel plague us by constantly making us change our telephone numbers, their comrades in communication, the Royal Mail, have devised their own form of intellectual torment: inciting us to try to select five, great, 20th century women. Predictably, their own selection of special stamps which went on sale yesterday — the Nobel Prize-winning scientist Dorothy Hodgkin, the sculptor Elizabeth Frink, the dancer Margot Fonteyn, the novelist Daphne du Maurier, and the athlete Marea Hartman — has been instantly criticised, less for who they are than for who they aren't. They aren't, for instance, Marie Stopes, Peggy Ashcroft, Ivy Compton-Burnett, Virginia Woolf or even Virginia Bottomley.

outraged to find that the authorities had rejected him in favour of Muffin the Mule. Who are the guilty selectors? Six marketing and design employees of the Royal Mail, we are told, worked with the stamps' designer, Stephanie Nash, and a 10-strong Stamp Advisory Committee, which included Labour MP Gwyneth Dunwoody, philatelist Jean Alexander, TV presenter Floella Benjamin, and designer Mary Lewis. Since these selections will always cause trouble, the five women involved in this process might have done just as well to nominate themselves.

We suspect that given its timing this announcement was simply a ruse to distract us on a day when we couldn't write letters because of a postal strike. The only other conceivable value of the exercise would be to underline yet again the truth of the famous proverb: "Philately will get you nowhere."



Letters to the Editor

Lilley's fraudulent claims

THE Government's proposed benefit fraud hotline is more than just a "gimmick" (Early rush for Lilley's cheat line, August 6). The available evidence indicates that its principal effect will be to increase the climate of suspicion which surrounds the claiming of social-security benefits and further to suppress the take-up of legitimate entitlements.

If policymakers are serious about suppressing benefit fraud, rather than benefit take-up, recent research findings suggest that increasing the risks associated with fraudulent claiming may represent the least effective way of minimising benefit fraud. Probably the most effective remedy would be to decrease the incentive for fraud by increasing benefit levels and easing benefit conditions.

Alternatively, some might say more realistically, the one thing which virtually all individual fraudulent claimants say would dissuade them from fiddling would be a "proper" job: employment, that is, not in the informal economy, but at reasonable pay and with reasonable status and security. The key to reducing both social-security spending and benefit

fraud lies in more effective policies to stimulate the legitimate labour market. (Dr) Hartley Dean, Reader in Social Policy, Dept of Social Studies, University of Luton, Park Square, Luton, Beds LU1 3JU.

REPORTS of the Government's initiative on benefit fraud have highlighted the double standard of introducing a freephone line to report suspected cheats within weeks of closing down the freephone line run to advise claimants of their entitlements. A further example of double standards is the failure to tackle tax evasion amongst those in work but avoiding tax collection. Recent estimates have indicated a £7 billion shortfall in projected tax revenue. Meanwhile, the Government is cutting 2,000 jobs in the Customs and Excise VAT Inspectorate and 12,000 jobs in the Inland Revenue and closing 100 tax offices. This is despite the fact that the Inland Revenue has estimated that for every £1 spent on tax compliance work, £4 in revenue is generated. An investment in jobs in the area of tax compliance would more than pay for itself and ensure that it was not just those on low incomes or benefits who were targeted as suspected cheats.

Clive Brooke, John Sheldon, Joint General Secretaries, Public Services Tax and Commerce Union (PTC), 5 Great Suffolk Street, London SE1 0NS.

A survivor recalls the sadness of losing her twin

I DO not belong to any type of pro-life group and do not wish to condemn abortions as such. However, I think it is essential that the medical staff and the mother in the current case ('No new issue' in abortion of twin, August 5) realise that the abortion of a twin is most definitely not the same as aborting a single foetus.

I am a lone twin and lost my sister in the womb. I know of many other lone twins in my position and we are all testament to the fact that losing a twin in utero is a devastating event that affects the surviving twin deeply throughout life, even when the survivor is not told that it was a twin.

The comment by Life that the child will resent its mother for causing their twin's death is only half the story, as it assumes that the child will be told about the circumstances of its birth. But even if information about the abortion of its twin is kept from the surviving child, it will nevertheless suffer the severe emotional effects of its bereavement. The only difference is that it will not be able to understand or explain why it has those feelings.

There have been many cases of lone twins who have not been told that they were a twin, but who have suffered intense, unexplainable feelings of bereavement and guilt for their life. They finally discover the truth after years of suffering, often when they are in therapy for depression or anxiety without an obvious cause, and only then can they finally begin to make sense of their feelings and come to terms with their loss.

I have heard the argument that a surviving twin will feel even more wanted because it has been "chosen" to survive. The opposite is true. A surviving twin will feel a great deal of resentment because its sibling has died, and will often blame its mother, the medical staff and, sometimes, themselves as well. The anger of the child who survives in this case will be intensified if all reasonable proportion because its twin was deliberately murdered in the womb.

I am appalled that the hospital which has been involved with the Lone Twin Network and research into twins and lone twins can make the decision to create a lone twin by deliberately killing a baby. Bryony Goode, 8 Gulliford's Bank, Kenn Moor Fields, Clevedon, Nr Somerset BS21 5DP.

DR Vivienne Nathanson, of the BMA, is right to observe that the abortion of a healthy twin for financial reasons raises no new issues. The vast majority of abortions are carried out precisely because women do not have the finances to have children.

Women get pregnant and then find their men, their employers, or both, unsupportive. Or they realise they can't afford it after all, so they are forced to have an abortion in order to retain what might be an already precarious standard of living. True choice cannot be made under economic duress.

This problem would be overcome if child benefit were raised to a level where women were genuinely compensated for the loss of earnings which becomes a mother entitled. A real wage for the job of bringing up the next generation would enable women truly to choose. Jean Molloy, 25a Theodors Road, London SE13 6ET.

THE only aspect of the twin abortion that I find shocking is the betrayal of patient confidentiality. There is nothing new about aborting healthy foetuses, nor about selective abortion. There was therefore no need to air the issue in order to test public opinion, which is increasingly pro-choice. Someone has broken the law — ever released this story to the press. There should be an inquiry and whoever it is should be disciplined. Leonora Lloyd, 27a Myrtle Road, London W8 6DY.

I AM concerned by the barbarity of a culture which has let me know about the situation of the woman in question. By what right is her agony made public? The public may not know her name at the moment, but her privacy is invaded by our ill-informed discussion of her personal life. Annie Robson, 821 Ascot Crescent, Stevenage SG1 5SX.

Letters to the Editor may be faxed on 0171 837 4530 or sent by post to 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER, and by e-mail to letters@guardian.co.uk. Please include a full postal address and daytime telephone number, even in e-mailed letters. We regret we cannot acknowledge receipt of letters. We may edit them: shorter ones are more likely to appear.



Ruddy ducks and blooming weeds

LESLEY Hedges' concern over the killing of grey squirrels to help to save the red (Letters, August 2) is the tip of a huge iceberg where conservation is concerned. To what extent do we kill one species to save another from dying out? Do we allow rats to eat the eggs of rare, ground-nesting birds, or do we try to kill the rats? Do we let the Japanese knotweed smother other plants or do we try to kill it? I know people who have been tempted to kill magpies they see raiding the nests of weaker birds in their gardens.

Here in Whitstable, the imported plant, Alexanders, said to have been brought here by the Romans, has spread to smother more delicate species, which we would not like to disappear. We can either say "Let nature take its course" and do nothing to interfere, or we can take measures to try to keep species in danger. A Wilks, 26 King Edward Street, Whitstable, Kent CT9 1JU.

IT is now evident that the Government is determined to carry out its plan to butcher the ruddy ducks next year. It is essential that the defence of the ruddy duck is set in motion immediately. John Cowen, 27 Stewart Terrace, Edinburgh EH11 1DW.

Rapid rebuttal

FOR the report on the Labour Party (Short given key role at conference, August 5) to be described by Peter Mandelson as "pure invention" (Letters, August 6) is high praise indeed, my old mate Peter knows more about political fabrication than most. But to associate David Hencke, who has regularly exposed government dirty deeds for 27 years, with the "Tory Lie Machine" is pretty tawdry stuff — even by the wizard of spin's dubious standards. Time the "stratagem" headed for the seaside, I think. John Booth, (Former Labour Party Chief Press Officer,) 5 Scholars Court, Hazellville Road, London N19 3NF.

PETER Mandelson writes of "me" and Alistair Campbell in his letter. Mr Mandelson is normally polite. What can have persuaded him not to write of "Alistair and me"? Is there a structuralist, or a psychiatrist, who can explain this quirk of style? David Ross, 55 Ruskin Park House, London SE5 8TQ.

How to stop John Birt behaving badly

YOUR decision to encourage a full re-organisation of the BBC has been as welcome as it has been effective. Rightly, this has concentrated on the proposals themselves and, in particular, the implications for the World Service. What has not been fully reflected is that John Birt, Sir Christopher Blund and the governors did not understand their respective roles.

When he attends board of governors' meetings, the director-general is representing the views of his board of management and the professional staff of the BBC. He therefore has a responsibility to consult with his senior colleagues before submitting his recommendations to the governors. Mr Birt did not do so.

The governors have a collective responsibility to scrutinise every proposal put before them by the director-general. Few of the governors have significant professional broadcasting experience. Therefore, when considering professional management issues, they should insist that senior staff are consulted. They should also insist that the broadcasting councils for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland should be given the opportunity to comment. In this case, they should have insisted on prior Foreign Office consultation. They did not do so and, in effect, approved one man's untested proposals. The chairman and the board of governors must now make it abundantly clear that never again will they allow the director-general to bulldoze his ideas through without consultation. Otherwise, senior management will have no trust in their director-general, and licence-payers will object strongly to their BBC being ruled by idiot. Johnny Wilkinson, (BBC Director of Public Affairs 1990-95; BBC Secretary 1977-80), Compass Cottage, Box, Minchinhampton, Nr Stroud, Glos GL6 9ND.

A Country Diary

TAMAR VALLEY: Ladders pushed up through cherry tree branches show that Tony is gathering cherries in one of the few remaining old orchards. Confirmation comes from his nephews, with purple-stained teeth and lips, carrying a bucketful of shiny black cherries. Early bur-combes, clustered on short stems and tedious to pick, came first, followed by delicate black bur-combes, the most reliable and heaviest cropping variety. Tangy sweet bur-combes, once popular for bottling, came later and the large, reddish-black cherries hang on long stems amongst dark green leaves, just out of reach above browsing level. The highest tree, a fine, the sweetest and juiciest of Tamar dessert cherries, is skeletal and gaunt, bare of leaves since last year. Other old trees show signs of disrepair and this year the crop is sparse, so ladders must be moved frequently. Early this century, cherry orchards were widespread and productive, with some trees reputed to yield 7-

10cwt of fruit at their peak. Heavy 34-bar, wooden ladders were manoeuvred into lofty trees for pickers to climb high up into the canopy. Deep, round baskets were hooked onto ladder rungs and pickers reached outwards for a "coose", or coose, of cherries before moving the ladder. Cherries were culled or sorted in packing houses and sent down-river to Devonport, thence by rail to London and the Midlands. Production was labour-intensive and new trees took at least 20 years to come into production. Today, hardly any productive trees remain but a new, traditional orchard is being established two miles from Boethic. In the adjoining, mother-tree plantation are some 20 varieties, rescued from near oblivion, growing on 10 to 15-year-old, semi-dwarfing cleft rootstock. Two trees are securely netted against birds, loaded with ripe, juicy bur-combes — contrasting with unprotected trees with only a few wizened stems and stems. VIRGINIA SPIERS

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Diary Matthew Norman

I AM pleased to learn that the "constitutional expert" Harold Brooks-Baker is keeping busy. As "publishing director" of Burke's Peerage, a book which hasn't been published for 25 years, with title and copyright owned by a Swiss company, there is a danger of time hanging heavy. However, Harold is filling his days by writing to people of various names offering an apparently specialised book. Geoffrey Tordoff received a letter: "I have exciting news for you and fellow Tordoffs! My so-called rival royal-watcher began. 'Finally, after years of effort and considerable expense, we are ready to publish the Burke's Peerage World of Tordoffs and you are listed in it.' For barely £400, those targeted can buy access to a 'world registry' of other Tordoffs..."

SANE and rational Paul Johnson calls in response to the item about his cordial relationship with the Moonies. However, he is in such a state that he slams (genuinely slams) the phone down before he has time to comment. Silly old sausage.

A bid to take his mind off the result of his annual Berlitz English exam (the envelope may be a victim of the postal strike). Cypriot wine-waiter Takis... reports, by a certain Alastair Forbes, whom he angrily describes as "an old man who name-drops". So has the Cypriot stumbled upon self-parody, or is it just coincidence?

BEN Elton's admission that he admires certain things about Lady Thatch has yet to penetrate a bookshop in Islington, which has placed the new paperback version of the old girl's The Path To Power in a section marked "true crimes".

FOLLOWING Dunblane, the Police Federation's official policy on handguns is that they should be banned. It will then, take the dimmest view of an advert for PSL Ltd in Police magazine, headlined "specialist firearms training". This alerts readers to a September visit from the Leindecker brothers, crack shots from the US Green Berets. "Take advantage of the unique opportunity," the ad entices. "We enhance your combative hand-gun skills." Police, by the way, is the official journal of the Police Federation.

THE new Book of the Month is, as expected, A Locomotive, by Bill Alcock. Subtitled "steam and diesel footprint life", and concise as can be at barely over 200 pages, the book relies on its author's diaries, personal memories and, indeed, anecdotes. We begin in Chapter One: An Early Start (1937-40). "I commenced in the Leamore area, and in the first week I hardly returned to the depot from 1.00 until 6.00 am." Mr Alcock recalls. "But as I learned, I found I could return for a cup of tea and a sandwich at around 3.00am, before the peak time of 4.00 to 6.00am." But that's quite enough excitement for one day.

NEW Labour's "rapid rebuttal" policy continues to impress. Mandy Mandelson assistant Deputy Foreign Secretary yesterday rebuffed the rumour that the Hartlepool MP has plans to use the summer to grow a lengthy beard "after the style of ZZ Top" with a rapidity to bring tears to the eyes. "Definitely not," said Odo, "without bothering to check. There's no truth in it at all."



Why we need to be scared of the doctor

Commentary Catherine Bennett

YESTERDAY it was suddenly disclosed that Britain's most notorious mother aborted her twin last month. Does she know what a commotion she has caused? Unless she is without a radio and television, and only reads the Financial Times, we must assume that the woman is well aware of all the pleas and insults, the court order and cash offers.

was too late anyway, the woman's doctors were refusing to pass on details of these inducements. "The hospital is determined to keep her confidence," said Hammersmith Hospitals Trust. Their concern for the mother has arrived somewhat late in the day, has it not? We may not have been formally introduced to this woman, but her most intimate circumstances have been exposed to all, in what must be among the most flagrant betrayals of confidence in medical history. Her doctor, Professor Phillip Bennett, has now been overtaken by discretion, but in the Sunday Express he appears to have talked quite freely about the case.

aroused useful quantities of revulsion, but it did so through its grotesque singularity, rather than by illustrating some wider, murderous, caprice on the part of either doctors or women. Soon the uproar over the woman's decision will subside, and when it does, attention should turn to the kind of medical ethics which allowed it to come to light in the first place. If public snooping for the detection of crime and

informs the BMA's medical ethics. "A doctor must keep secrecy on all he knows", it rules, stipulating five exceptions. In the current case, the relevant exceptions would be either patient consent, or "the doctor's overriding duty to society". It seems clear that the patient has not consented, nor has Mr Bennett suggested that he was trying to make society do anything about this, or any other abortion. On the contrary, he told the Express that he considers terminations better than "the long-term harm of unwanted pregnancies".

leakage of information. Within hospitals, patient confidentiality is jeopardised by commercial practice. In the new, competitive NHS, hospitals vie for pre-eminence and funds, and it must be tempting to procure them by stimulating the insatiable public appetite for gurneys and gore, death and deliverance. If ER, Casualty, Cardiac Arrest and Peak Practice can win audiences with lashings of tomato sauce, why shouldn't Magdi Yacoub offer the real thing on Sky News, or Great Ormond Street present its own true-life tear-

The very commercial considerations which prevent justifiable disclosures about market-driven medicine now encourage hospitals to be casual about what should be most confidential of all — their patients

fraud is to be condemned as an offence against civil liberties, what should we make of a medical profession which allows the public to snoop on the lawful personal circumstances of its patients? The Hippocratic Oath includes a promise of confidentiality. "Whatever, in connection with my professional practice, or not in connection with it, I see or hear, in the life of men, which ought not to be spoken of abroad, I will not divulge, as reckoning that all such should be kept secret." The oath is rarely taken these days, but it still

A history that bugs Bognor to this day



David McKie

THE cost of hiring expert advisers for his failed deal with Amstrad has knocked £1.5 million off the profits of the high-tech company Psion. But the chairman, David Potter, thinks that's money well spent. "If you are going to investigate a situation on behalf of your shareholders," he told reporters, "it is appropriate not to use hick lawyers from Bognor Regis."

owland, farming and fishery the first great planned seaside resort, a place to match Bath and out rival Brighton, where the genteel could take the air without the intrusive noise and vulgar behaviour inescapable in other resorts. For this purpose he built Hothampton Place and East Row (both now demolished), looking out over Hothampton Field (now Waterloo Square). Even more ambitiously, he erected Hothampton Crescent (still standing, mercifully, having been saved from eradication by becoming a teacher-training college). The centrepiece of the three buildings here was Dome House, a building, he calculated, fine enough to lure the Prince of Wales to Hothampton for his holidays.

Master of the universe

Martin Walker argues that while the US has always legislated beyond its boundaries, Bill Clinton now knows he can get away with it. Below, Mark Milner assesses the effect of his proposed trade sanctions

SWEDEN'S prime minister Goran Persson was in the Oval Office yesterday to explain to President Clinton why he and the Baltic states needed American help to get the three little countries, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia out of Russia's shadow and into the European Union. It is an issue of vital national interest for Sweden and other Baltic states. But first, as the first EU leader to see the US president since Bill Clinton's latest attempt to impose American law on other countries, Persson had to register his objections.



rialist in the classic sense. It is simply that power matters. The US defence budget, at \$250 billion a year, is greater than that of the world's next ten military powers combined. And yet this \$250 billion represents just over 3 per cent of America's current GDP. The last time the US spent so little of its wealth on defence was in 1940, the year before Japan attacked Pearl

the Clinton era than it has been for over 20 years. Throughout the 1990s, the US has enjoyed modest GDP growth while Japan has stagnated and Europe has barely grown at all. The US is now the world's biggest exporter, and the new global free-trade order is one designed by the Bush and Clinton administrations for American convenience. The European

act of arrogance that only the world's last superpower could hope to get away with. But Clinton will face little domestic criticism for his stand. Former secretary of state Lawrence Eagleburger was unusual in commenting yesterday that "I'm bothered by our attempt at enforced imperialism here".

the Pax Britannica with the military punch of the Roman legions. The collapse of the Soviet Union has removed the last force on the planet capable of imposing serious restraint upon America's strategic will.

Harbor. Throughout the cold war, the US routinely spent 8 per cent of its GDP on defence, without undue strain. The US has now achieved global hegemony on the cheap, at a price it can sustain indefinitely.

countries hope to use the rules of the free-trade system and appeal to the new World Trade Organisation to declare Clinton's sanctions illegal. But the US signature on the treaty establishing the WTO is conditional, capable of being reviewed if three verdicts go against the US — an

ment in the Iranian and Libyan industries had been relatively modest, not least because neither country was particularly interested in wooing western expertise or investment.

Industry plays it cool in election year

BILL CLINTON could face an unexpected consequence of the US legislation designed to dissuade foreign companies from investing in the Libyan and Iranian oil and gas industries and in Cuba: American firms could be among the victims. American financial institutions might find themselves shunned by lending to non-US companies which fell foul of the D'Amato legislation, aimed at blocking investments of more than \$40 million in the Libyan oil and gas industry. American invest-

ment banks might also find themselves unable to take part in international share sales from companies hit by the legislation. "What would happen if the Italian government wanted to sell more shares in Agip, which has substantial interests in Libya?" one observer was asking last night. "Would US investment banks be able to take part if Agip was on the US target list?"

But despite the intensity of the diplomatic row, the mood in the corporate sector is rather cooler, not least because the D'Amato legislation is not expected to affect existing investments. A spokesman for the French oil group Total, which has a \$600 million project in Iran as well as interests in Libya, said yesterday: "We are not concerned: the legislation is not retro-active. We don't intend to have another project of that size in that part of the world."

'I want a guide to making or changing my Will that's written in plain, clear English.'

Our new FREE Will Guide is full of essential information about making or changing a Will. And it's been given the Plain English Campaign's Crystal Mark, so you should find it clear and easy to understand. If you don't have a Will, the tax man could take a larger part of your estate when you die. You also risk your personal possessions not going to the people you wish to have them.

Form for requesting a free Will Guide from the Parkinson's Disease Society of the United Kingdom, Dept 6D/A/7/B, 22 Upper Woburn Place, London, WC1H 0RA.

Frank Marcus

Both sides of the curtain

FRANK Marcus, the dramatist and theatre critic who has died aged 68, had two earlier close encounters with the Grim Reaper. The first was in 1938, at the age of 11, when he was being whisked out of Nazi Germany along with his mother and sister just before the outbreak of war. The border guards discovered caricatures of Hitler and his circle tucked away behind his passport. He had been drawing them to while away the long train journey. Fortunately, he was allowed to continue his journey to Britain.

The second was some 30 years later, in the 1960s. As an established West End dramatist with the award-winning *The Killing of Sister George* under his belt, he had become the Sunday Telegraph's first drama critic (1967) and was travelling back to London by road after an RSC Stratford first night. His wife, Jackie, was at the wheel, but unknown to her passengers she had nodded off and the car crossed the central reservation into the path of an oncoming vehicle. The hooting and screeching of brakes woke her just in time to pull the car back on course, and as the party excitedly discussed the way their whole lives had flashed passed them in those few dangerous seconds, Frank's voice was heard to say in the tones of amused and ironic detachment with which he always seemed to look at life: "I was wondering how many column inches my obituary might run to and whether or not they would use a photo."

Despite the growing threats of life in the Germany of the 1930s, Frank, who was born in Bremen, had very happy memories of his childhood there in his closely-knit Jewish family. His father, Frederick Marcus, had started his career in banking but had become a high-ranking civil servant in the Weimar Republic's forestry commission and managed to keep his post for a couple of years after the Nazis came to power. But when the Nuremberg Laws of 1935 came into force, forbidding Jews to hold government positions, he had to step down and his law.

The parents, sophisticated anglophiles with avant-garde tastes, had named their son Frank after Frank Wedekind, whose *Spring Awakening* was still banned here when the Marcuses took refuge in wartime Britain. Marcus senior had to serve a period of internment on the Isle of Man and then in Australia, and this meant the school for refugee children, Bunce Court, founded by two elderly Quaker women who had come to Britain as political refugees and who had got together

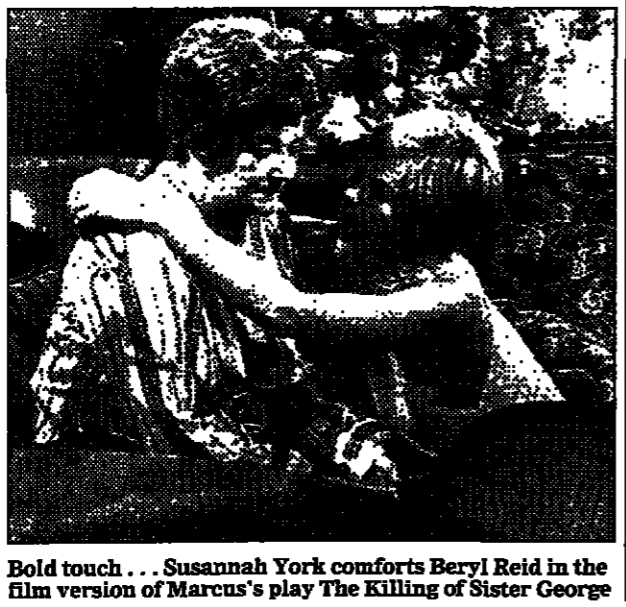
a talented staff trained by people like Max Reinhardt. Many of their pupils were, like Frank, to play a prominent part in Britain's post-war cultural life.

Frank's talents as an artist (as noted by Germany's border guards) led to his doing a foundation year at the St Martin's School of Art, though as a teenager he was already drawn to the theatre — first as an actor, but very soon as a writer. His life clicked into place when he founded the International Theatre Group to promote international classics and new writing, thereby anticipating by a few seasons the sort of work attempted by Peter Hall at the Arts Theatre in the mid-1950s.

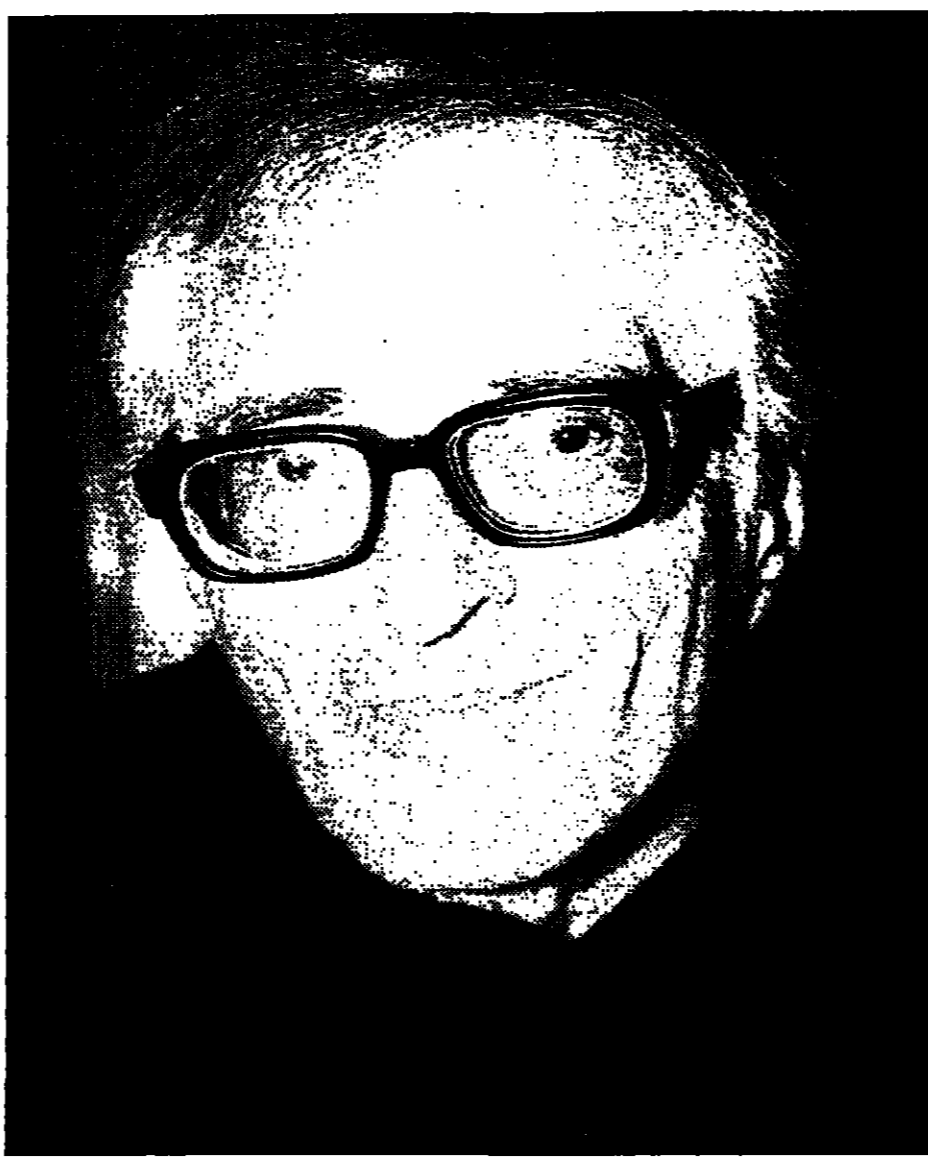
With a semi-professional company, the group mounted works by Goliard, Molière, Pirandello, Shaw and Tennessee Williams, with Frank not only writing but also directing and painting the scenery. It was a first-class practical grounding for a future dramatist and critic.

IT ALSO helped further to lay the foundations of life to come when a prize-winning actress, Jacqueline Sylvester, played an elderly refugee lady in Frank's first performed play, *Minuet for Stuffed Birds* in 1951, when he was 23, and in the next 10 years had three children. The need to become the bread winner meant that for a time Frank became a somewhat frustrated Sunday-afternoon writer while he earned a living as an antique dealer in his maternal grandparents' shops in Chancery Lane.

By 1963, however, his play, *The Man Who Bought a Battlefield*, based on a man who literally bought a battlefield and made a fortune out of it before becoming bankrupt, inaugurated a remarkably successful period as a full-



Bold touch... Susannah York comforts Beryl Reid in the film version of Marcus's play *The Killing of Sister George*



Frank Marcus... champion of international theatre and a fine critic

time professional writer. The play was done at the Unity Theatre but only had three performances because Marcus refused to bow to Unity's demands that a scene showing an anti-American demonstration should be made to look "spontaneous" — though Frank was a liberal, he was certainly not a card-carrying Marxist. But the setback was forgotten as his career took off.

He was soon on the books of the eccentrically gifted play agent, Peggy Ramsay, who was both mother and hate figure to a whole generation of new theatre writers, whose first plays and loathed when she seemed, after their initial successes, to have moved on to a new favourite. Frank remained loyal to her both during the period of his big West End successes in the 1960s and early 1970s (*The Formation Dancers*, 1964, *The Killing of Sister George*, 1965, *Mrs Mouse, Are You Within?*, 1968, *Notes on a Love Affair*, 1972) and after when his 10-year stint as the Sunday Telegraph's theatre critic was followed by rural retirement in the West Country.

Though Frank came from the Ramsay stable of new writers, his West End successes led to his being taken less seriously than some of his contemporaries and being thought of as being a boulevardier. Clearly a dramatist who was influenced by Pirandello, Schnitzler and Molnar, as he was, could be no Shaftesbury Avenue lightweight. But in the 1960s, a writer who was not angry with a capital "A" tended to be regarded with some suspicion. Nobody, however, could deny that *The Killing of Sister George*, written when the Lord Chamberlain's censorship still dictated what could be put on in the West End, was a milestone in gay drama

and its reputation survived Robert Aldrich's crude movie version.

Although *Sister George* is Frank Marcus's best-known work, he never thought of it as his best, preferring the more autobiographical *Formation Dancers* (about two masochistic males embroiled with a lively young troupe), *Notes on a Love Affair*, and *Mrs Mouse, Are You Within?* (which dissected the nature of friendship and came down firmly on the side of the chaotically good-natured rather than the well-ordered).

Frank's refusal to be overly solemn about his work may have contributed to its being taken less seriously than it should have been. But solemnity was not part of his nature, and when a colleague complained in a long-winded magazine article about the treatment his latest work had received at the hands of critics, Frank sent round a huge tin of Good Dog biscuits as the moaning writer had mentioned in passing that he had been bitten by his dog as well as the reviewer's.

Frank's decision to allow his plays to be performed in South Africa when others banned theirs as a protest about apartheid was unpopular in some quarters. He, however, always maintained it was better for a closed community to know what was going on in the world. He never took a penny of the profits his plays made in South Africa.

His strengths as a theatre

critic lay in the wit and urbanity of his writing, coupled with his central European background and the practical working knowledge of the theatre which his reviews revealed. He had begun criticism back in the 1950s for a small esoteric magazine, and in its pages was the first in Britain to champion Marcel Marceau, the French mime, who was to become a lifelong family friend. Before joining the Sunday Telegraph he wrote for two years for *Plays and Players* in its 1960s heyday, when future national critics such as Robert Cushman, Michael Billington and Benedict Nightingale were also on its monthly panel.

PERHAPS it was sad that after a decade of theatre criticism he did not have another new West End success. But he was undoubtedly encouraged by the fact that a commissioned television play, stage play and musical (about Old Mother Riley) never got performed. He had never been a well man, having had Parkinson's diagnosed in his early thirties, and though it was held in check by drugs he had to make heroic efforts to overcome the physical limitations the disease imposed. In the end, one had the impression of an always keen, lively and above all compassionate mind, imprisoned in an increasingly frail body.

Peter Roberts

Frank Ullrich Marcus, playwright and critic, born June 30, 1928; died August 5, 1996

Sir Peter Green

Name-calling in the City

THE CAREER of Sir Peter Green, the man once called "the father of the new Lloyd's", who has died aged 71 just a day before his birthday, was clouded by contradiction. An abrupt man, he became chairman of Lloyd's in 1979 and, although his family's lengthy history at the City institution made him an unlikely reformer, he was responsible outside Parliament for steering through the Houses of Commons and Lords the 1982 Lloyd's Act, which brought about the most comprehensive change to the insurance market's regulation for a century.



Sir Peter Green... conflict

That legislation sought to improve the standards of governance in the market and, although Sir Peter had reservations, it also helped sever some of the most flagrant conflicts of interest at Lloyd's by preventing insurance brokers from running underwriting syndicates.

The act also opened the way for the appointment of an independent chief executive, rather than allowing the 300-year-old market to continue unscrutinised and ruled over by insiders. But although the new regulations were an attempt to restore the badly damaged reputation of the market, investigations carried out during Sir Peter's regime remained the less-than-rigorous, — and strictly private affairs — they had always been.

His short inquiry into allegations of fraud by syndicates run by Peter Cameron-Webb, one of Sir Peter's former business associates, the "CY Affair", found "no dishonesty", but a later probe by inspectors from the Department of Trade and Industry completely rejected this result, although Sir Peter was cleared of a cover-up.

Most damagingly, Sir Peter's reputation was tarnished when he was fined £2,500 after a disciplinary inquiry had found him guilty of market misconduct. He had failed to ensure that re-insurance arrangements, using a Cayman Islands company in which he had a personal shareholding, were fair to his insurers. Sir Peter always disputed the charges, but that black mark could mean that Sir Peter's estate will be debarred from any benefit in the current £3.2 billion rescue package which is now being offered to Lloyd's Names. The market authorities will not comment on whether Sir Peter features among the 170 blacklisted Names.

Sir Peter was famed for forcing would-be investors or Names to give him a blank cheque, which he would then pocket in an attempt to convey to them the risks of accepting unlimited liability at Lloyd's. Yet his tenure dur-

ing the early 1980s — he was the longest serving post-war chairman — has been the time during which Lloyd's conspicuously failed to tighten its entry wealth test. This allowed hosts of unsuitable investors to become Names. These Names, often backed by little more than an inflated London house price, are now having to be bailed out after the market clocked up £8 billion of losses in three years.

Sir Peter, educated at Harrow School and Christ Church College, Oxford, served in the wartime Royal Navy from 1943 before becoming a member of his father Toby Green's Lloyd's underwriting syndicate in 1947. Toby Green was one of the most influential marine underwriters of his day.

Two decades later, in 1966, Sir Peter became chairman of the family's Janson Green business. Eight years later he cemented his involvement in the market by becoming a member of the Lloyd's ruling committee. Sir Peter was knighted in 1982 and given the honour of a Lloyd's Gold Medal, a ceremonial so rare only 15 have been awarded since 1913 — that it involves ringing the famous Lutine Bell twice.

Although the scandals which so damaged the reputation of the Lloyd's market were never far away during his term as chairman, Sir Peter Green will also be remembered as the man who was instrumental in commissioning the new Lloyd's Building in Lime Street, whose controversial architecture, by Richard Rogers, has made it one of best-known landmarks in the City.

Sir Peter was married twice. His first wife, Pamela, died in 1958. The following year he married Jennifer, who survives him.

Lisa Buckingham

Sir Peter James Frederick Green, former chairman of Lloyd's, born July 28, 1924; died July 7, 1996

Guido Alberti

A toast to literary success

GUIDO Alberti, who died aged 91, appeared in films directed by Federico Fellini, Francesco Rosi and Roman Polanski, but above all he was the patron of Italy's foremost literary prize, the Premio Strega, named after the liqueur produced by his family's firm. One Sunday in 1947, Alberti went to the literary salon of Goffredo and Maria Bellonci who told him they wanted to found a literary prize. Alberti, eager to do something "sublimely useful" funded it, and the Premio Strega was born.

In 1963, Guido met and married Lucia, a professional astrologer, who he described as "my own private witch". Lucia claimed to have predicted her husband's film career, but it was probably acute observation that prompted her to note how Fellini studied Guido over dinner while preparing what became *Eight and a Half*.

Fellini cast Alberti in the role of the film producer because he recognised in him some of the physical characteristics of another business magnate who had albeit reluctantly — produced *La Dolce Vita* and then pocketed his box-office gold, leaving as a souvenir-cum-reward for Federico only a gold watch.

This episode was portrayed in *Eight and a Half*, and launched Alberti's new career. He enjoyed himself enormously and won critical praise. After Fellini came another director friend, Rosi, who cast him as a sly Neapolitan rightwing politician in *Hands Over the City* (1963).

Alberti was born and spent his childhood in Benevento, in the Campania mountains, famous for its association with witchcraft. In ancient times, it was Malesurtum; the new name, Beneventum, meaning good (rather than bad) wind was given it by the Romans around 730BC. The town's, golden-coloured

liqueur invented by Alberti's paternal grandfather in 1880 was invariably called Strega (witch). After an early life which took him round the world working for the family firm, Alberti had settled in Rome, mixing with writers and actors, many of whom he helped to hide from the fascists. He was himself briefly arrested during the German occupation.

Alberti never forgot that other "profession". When in London with him and Rosi for the London Film Festival presentation of *Hands Over the City*, during lunch at the Savoy I ordered a vanilla ice-cream. Alberti called the wine

producer called me asking if I would like to play Rossini in a film they were preparing. I said thanks, but surely I'm too English-looking and not plump enough. I suggested Alberti, who got the part and did an excellent job. I got a crate of Strega for Christmas.

Alberti appeared in films by among others, Sydney Pollack, Roman Polanski (as one of the eccentric guests in the Positano Villa in *What?*), Claude Chabrol, and he was Mr Tupman in a very curious TV serialisation of *Pickwick Papers*, in which the members of the Pickwick Club seemed like a band of noisy Italian tourists visiting a papier mâché 19th-century England.

John Francis Lane

Guido Alberti, literary patron, actor and businessman, born April 20, 1909; died August 3, 1996

Birthdays

David Allan, disc jockey, 57; the Rt Rev David Bentley, Bishop of Gloucester, 61; Greg Chappell, cricketer, 48; Neil Clarke, chairman, British Coal, 62; Prof Herbert Elvin, educationalist, 81; Matthew Evans, publisher, Sydney Pollack, Roman Polanski (as one of the eccentric guests in the Positano Villa in *What?*), Claude Chabrol, and he was Mr Tupman in a very curious TV serialisation of *Pickwick Papers*, in which the members of the Pickwick Club seemed like a band of noisy Italian tourists visiting a papier mâché 19th-century England.

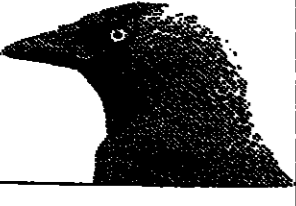
Death Notices

FAWCETT The funeral of Miss Fawcett will take place at St Andrew's Church, London W8, at 2pm on Tuesday 13th August. Family and friends are invited to attend. Mrs. Fawcett died on 27th July 1996. Contact: Mrs. Fawcett, 071 732 0023.

HARRISON On 6th August 1996 Charles Harrison C.M.G. died at Ashby House, Chesham, Bucks. He was 87. He was buried on 14th August at 2.30 pm. Flowers may be sent to Peter and Sheila Harrison, 200, St. Paul's Church, Ashby, Bucks. Tel: 01295 722854.

WATKINS The funeral of Mrs. Elizabeth Watkins will take place at St. Andrew's Church, London W8, at 2pm on Tuesday 13th August. Family and friends are invited to attend. Mrs. Watkins died on 27th July 1996. Contact: Mrs. Watkins, 071 732 0023.

Jackdaw



MY WIFE and I spent Memorial Day weekend on the Gulf Coast. On the way home to South Carolina we developed car trouble and spent seven hours in a tiny South Alabama town while the car was repaired. The bill was \$200. We had had to drive through intense thunderstorms and listened to the radio to cheer ourselves up. They played "My Guy", which has the lyrics "there's not a man today who can take me away from my guy". The disc jockey came on and said, "Not even Fabio! At those words, a woman spread through me and I suddenly felt like everything's going to be OK. I was reminded of Fabio himself and the ideals he represents. The way he writes about love and/or portrays on book covers, overcome enormous obstacles in their quest for romance and adventure, and have to deal with more serious problems than what I was going through. A little car trouble, a little rain, all this is nothing to a hero! And I resolve here and now to be a hero. Just made me feel all the better about life and the world. Thank you, Fabio. (My wife's due date is now two weeks away. It's going to be a girl, so we can't call her Fabio, but I'm thinking about Fabio, Fabiola, Fabiolista.) Stephen Smith, Author of *A Vision Writ in Stars and Sand* (longest Fabio poem). The world fan does not seem to mind

Cop out
THE ROYAL Ballet apologises for the change of programme at this evening's performance. The company has been unable to acquire the orchestral score of the Tallis man pas de deux from Russia.

The Relique
FEW readers will have failed to be heartened by the sale, at Sotheby's Fine Art auction, of the late Mrs Jacqueline Onassis Kennedy's diaphragm, but A&A Journal is the first to point out how this can be inserted into the spectrum of artistic opportunity. Objects which have been as close to semi-divine events as this one were venerated in medieval times as holy relics.

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Con rules
I WAS gonna kill the mother-fucker. My sanity was gone. He was gonna die. My time had arrived. I saw no future, so

what the hell. I got a silk tie my old man had given me some years ago, my favourite tie. I was to strangle him this way. I was excited. It was the same buzz you get from an armed robbery. Waiting for attack. I can't describe my feelings. I won't try to. But I was on an adrenaline high. The time arrived. I walked into the dormitory in my pyjamas with my tie around my waist, out of sight. I climbed into bed and waited. These dormitories were well observed throughout the night. Fuck the night watch. There was no saving the thief. I lay there... Just waiting, like a spider waits for the fly. This was my night. My fly. Some will read this and see me as a callous bastard. Maybe a heartless animal. I'm certainly not justifying my actions. I knew it was over the top. I'm a very over the top man. I don't claim to be something I'm not. I'm mad or had... I was buzzing. Twelve o'clock, one o'clock. I waited patiently... It happened! It was as if I sent the thief a telepathic message. He moved, he sat up... I leapt out of bed. In a second the tie was around his ugly

neck. I was strangling the guy. It felt magic. It felt right. Surprisingly there was very little noise. A sigh, a groan at first but then nothing. I pulled tighter. I leant over to watch. His eyes bulged. His face was going grey. He was on his way out of planet Earth. Then it happened, the tie snapped. He began making noises, loud animal grunts, deep chesty moans. The trouble was up. I was in. I acted fast. I hit him and straddled him over the bed.

Brutal methods
I HAVE discovered a horrible, rather brutal method that I recommend only to men of excessive vigor, men with thick black hair and skin covered with liver spots, men with big square hands and legs shaped like bowling pins. It is a question of using finely pulverised, dense coffee, cold and anhydrous, consumed on an empty stomach. This coffee falls into your stomach, a sack whose velvety interior is lined with tangles of suckers and papillae. The coffee finds nothing in the sack, and so it attacks these delicate and voluptuous linings; it acts like a food and demands digestive

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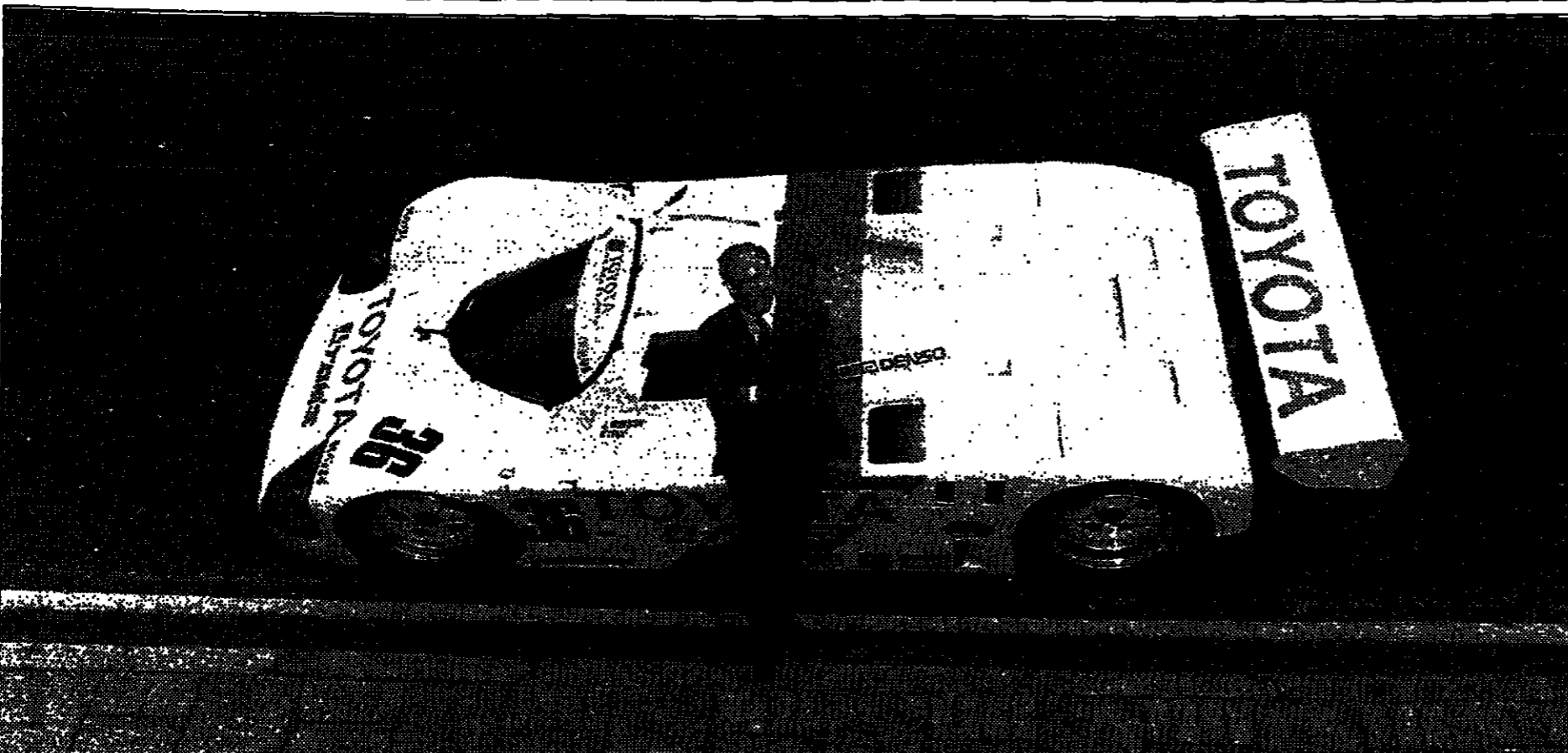
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Jackdaw wants jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-713 4966; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

Emily Sheffield

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian



Bob Seelert (above), chief executive of advertising group Cordiant, with a Toyota Le Mans racing car which was featured in the company's recent campaign. Cordiant, formerly known as Saatchi & Saatchi, yesterday signalled its

recovery from last year's upheavals by posting first half pre-tax profits of £15.5 million, writes Pauline Springett.

That compares with a loss of £29.6 million last year in the wake of the turmoil caused by the departure of former chairman Maurice Saatchi and his brother Charles.

Other staff subsequently resigned and the company lost several high-profile accounts worth about £40 million, including British Airways, to a new rival agency set up by the Saatchi brothers.

Cordiant chairman, Charlie Scott, said the results "reflected a tremendous performance by all of the group's people around the world. This is steady progress."

Recent account wins by Cordiant include business from new and existing clients such as Johnson & Johnson and Eastman Kodak.

Notebook

There's no drug like success



Edited by Mark Milner

ZENECA is no doubt fed up with the endless speculation about its chances of staying independent. But it is true that the world's pharmaceutical industry is undergoing a restructuring which is seeing the emergence of some very big firms, such as Glaxo-Wellcome, Pharmacia & Upjohn and Novartis. More mergers like these are, no doubt, inevitable.

some intriguing comments about the BZW investment banking business. According to Mr Taylor, while banks make money from taking risks, BZW takes rather smaller trading risks than some of its European mainland rivals. The bank has spent heavily on technology and, while it has been reducing the number of staff within its retail branch network, it has been increasing the numbers of rather more highly-paid people at the investment banking business.

Message too far?

THE time-honoured cure for unemployment figures is message, as critics of the official unemployment measure will testify. A study published today showed that Britain's output could be raised by more than 2 per cent with a simple shift in techniques of accounting.

Salvesen hit as bid fails

HAYS immediately withdrew its offer, which, if accepted, would have catapulted it into the FTSE-100. By then, Salvesen shares had already crashed 46p to 304p, wiping some £136 million from the group's market value.

However, analysts said the fall would have been worse had Salvesen not added that it was "actively reviewing various measures to improve shareholder value", including a possible share buy-back, asset sales, or a demerger.

Mr Masters, who said Salvesen would now consider its options "as a matter of urgency", said he hoped the company would be able to put

alternative proposals to shareholders later this year. He added: "We recognise we cannot let the share price go tumbling back to 260p [where it was before news of Hays's interest leaked out] and not do anything."

Under the terms rejected by Salvesen yesterday, Hays raised its initial cash-and-shares offer from 570p to 800p, with a special dividend available as part of the cash element - bringing the total to 406p.

Central to the rejection appears to have been lack of support from the founding Salvesen family, whose 200 members collectively own 38 per cent of the shares, and without whose support Hays was unwilling to launch a hostile bid.

Barclays gives surplus £465m to shareholders

NEARLY £1 billion will have been returned to shareholders in Barclays Bank during the past year after a new wave of share repurchases announced yesterday.

Barclays - exhibiting caution on all fronts despite the surging economic recovery - said it had more capital than it needed and had no wish to hang on to surplus funds.

Barclays was also cautious about the prospects for British banks participating in the single European currency if the United Kingdom remains outside monetary union. On whether the City would be handicapped dealing in the euro, Mr Taylor said: "There certainly is scope for both."

B&Q bonuses capped after figures threaten large payouts

RETAIL group Kingfisher has capped performance-related bonuses for staff of its B&Q home improvements chain after bumper profits threatened to trigger huge payouts.

Rail 'fat cats' cream big rises

THE row over "fat cat controllers" in the private railway industry escalated yesterday as new figures showed that bosses in the newly-floated track authority, Railtrack, boosted their pay by 30 per cent last year as staff salaries

dropped considerably over his handling of the 1995 signal workers' strike, has notified the board that he would be prepared to stay on beyond the expiry of his initial contract next year.

Unhappy at work? Disappointed in bed? No social life? Have a sandwich

Dan Atkinson and Sarah Ryle chew over the latest answer to stress

LOW productivity, work-life stress, the breakdown of community, and above all, disappointment in the rank among the evils of our time. But they can be banished - not with drugs, alcohol or a moral crusade, but with sandwiches.

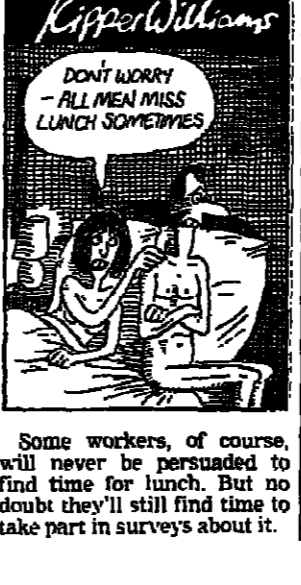
many scientific triumphs, it was largely accidental. Boots invested huge sums in a new line of super-fresh sandwiches then commissioned a survey which, to Boots's horror, demonstrated the incredible shrinking nature of the British lunch break: 30 per cent of office workers never take the full hour, 20 per cent regularly skip lunch completely, and 3 per cent miss the meal break every day.

Other silly surveys...

- August 5: Blackpool is Britain's hottest resort for sex (contraceptive manufacturer Durex);
- July 22: Politicians lose votes when they criticise teachers (Association of Lecturers and Teachers);
- July 15: Temporary workers are in huge demand (Reed Personnel Services);
- July 14: Specs are sexy (optician Dollond & Aitchison);
- May 2: Computer usage has started to dent the dominance of TV as a leisure pursuit

million". They failed to release workers for the export drive and contributed to a "decline in effectiveness". But Boots's researchers weren't quite there yet. To be certain of success, they needed the X ingredient - sex. Sure enough, they were equal to the task of those who skip lunch, "two-thirds say their relationship with their partner is affected when they are stressed and 40 per cent say their sex life also suffers".

Fortunately, the antidote to this decline of the West is at hand: sandwiches "provide one of the healthiest lunches as they tend to contain a good mixture of nutrients," claims Boots. Well, of course. They tend also to be lower in fat than some cooked meats or fast food. Absolutely.



News in brief

Clearance for BCCI creditors

The High Court yesterday gave directions which should clear the way for the payment of a dividend to thousands of creditors of the defunct Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) collapsed in the summer of 1991 after the Bank of England led a worldwide shutdown by regulators of its operations in 69 countries.

Kept's hindsight

Shane Ross, chairman of bid target Kleinwort European Privatisation Investment Trust (Kept), said yesterday that shareholders had expected "a bonanza" that had proved "difficult to realise", adding that 1994, in hindsight, had not been the best time to launch such a fund.

TOURIST RATES - BANK SELLS

Australia 1.936	France 7.52	Italy 2.283	Singapore 2.135
Austria 15.01	Germany 2.22	Malta 0.535	South Africa 6.70
Belgium 46.69	Greece 357.00	Netherlands 2.492	Spain 188.25
Canada 2.072	Hong Kong 11.84	New Zealand 2.19	Sweden 10.01
Cyprus 0.685	India 54.95	Norway 9.63	Switzerland 1.765
Denmark 6.62	Ireland 0.932	Portugal 229.00	Turkey 124.479
Finland 6.82	Israel 4.89	Saudi Arabia 5.78	USA 1.516

Supplied by Halifax Bank (releasing Indian rupee and Israeli sheqel)



By hand... Student Ise Oelbers is taught boatbuilding from scratch. PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM TURNER

Student boatbuilders who chart a worldwide course

WORKFACE/Old skill is revived in Lowestoft, says CHRIS BARRIE

LOVE and understanding of wooden boats seems scant guarantee of a job anywhere in the world. But a qualification from a boatbuilding college, in Suffolk's most economically depressed town, is proving a good enough passport for many college students to find work as far away as New Zealand and the US. All find work before they graduate.

John Elliot, principal and owner of the International Boatbuilding Training College in Lowestoft, says: "If you want to wander the world, you need to be a dentist or a boatbuilder." And preferably a boatbuilder who works in wood, despite the fact that nine out of 10 boats are built in glass fibre.

His college is deluged with applications from would-be boat designers, builders and boatyard managers. So many apply for the 60 places open each year, that the college uses psychometric tests in an effort to select only those who will succeed.

Some applicants want to come to Lowestoft simply to learn the advanced carpentry and joinery that is the kernel of the course. Some are school-leavers. Many are people fed up with careers in the professions. And many, such as 32-year-old Ise Oelbers, hear about the course on an international grapevine.

Ms Oelbers gave up a career in Amsterdam to work with wood. She acknowledges that learning to build a boat from scratch in just 12 months was physically, as well as mentally, demanding, but it was worth it. "Wood," she says, "is such a beautiful material."

In the boatyard sit the skeletal outlines of clinker din-

ghies, a 37-foot ketch, and the hulls of future lifeboats. The keel of what will be a 29-foot yacht sits in the sunlight.

Chris Ferri, a 38-year-old marine engineer, who renounced the steel and concrete world of the North Sea oil platforms for Lowestoft, gestures at the exposed backbones of the boats. Fibreglass is too important to be totally ignored on the course, but Mr Ferri dwells on wood: "It is alive to us. It bends, twists and shapes." He adds: "Look at how the grains run."

The beauty of the craftsmanship seems a world away from the reality of commercial boatbuilding in Lowestoft. The country's most eastern town has been hit by the decline in fishing, which has cost 1,700 jobs since 1980, not counting

For boatbuilders the consolation is real likelihood of constant employment

the jobs lost in associated industries, such as food processing and shipbuilding.

One in five males were unemployed in spring 1994 when the European Commission singled the town out for special assistance.

Most recent data suggests that 9.5 per cent of the workforce are unemployed in Lowestoft and the surrounding area. Much of Lowestoft looks in poor repair, the salt and wind leaving a worn beauty behind in some places, dilapidation in others.

Pay for those in work is low, between 10 and 15 per cent below the national average. That applies to boatbuilding as well, where even highly skilled craftsmen will make only £2 an hour. For boatbuilders the consolation is a real likelihood of constant employment. If not in bo-

yards then as a carpenter, electrician or plumber. All these trades are needed in boat making, and are taught at the college.

Mr Elliot's effort is aimed at an international skills crisis, rather than local employment problems. Set up by boating industry executives alarmed at the shortage of skilled craftsmen, the college was bought by Mr Elliot, its former manager, after its multiplicity of owners proved too cumbersome.

He was aware that traditional skills were dying out so he has concentrated on teaching wooden techniques. The instructors are aware that they are passing on traditional skills which would otherwise be lost; they are in their 50s and 60s, and the college is now training students interested in becoming future instructors.

The college is undoubtedly a sound business. Students pay £5,000 each for the course — and living costs can amount to another £9,000. The students make boats to order, thereby contributing to college overheads.

The course is also the epitome of a private sector solution to a skills shortage. Mr Elliot is unashamedly ruthless in his approach to his charges.

Once accepted, students face assessment during the year on their timekeeping and attitude. A full diploma is only awarded to those who demonstrate "exemplary standards of timekeeping and effort". Students clock on and off, as the course literature says: "The college's rules, regulations and work ethics... closely reflect those of the boating industry."

Agreeing that the college aims to produce not just skilled students but also "good employees", Mr Elliot says that boatbuilding needs good timekeeping because it is a team effort. He adds: "We are not here to take up training places with people who will not put their backs into it."

Battle to poach current account customers continues to flare, Rachel Baird reports

Halifax joins in hunt

THE battle for current account customers will intensify today as the Halifax unveils plans to poach other banks' customers with a revamped service.

Its move comes just weeks after Barclays introduced a free 48-hour overdraft facility in a bid to entice new customers to its branches, backed by an advertising campaign featuring a scorpion and promising "no stings attached".

While current accounts are hardly profitable they provide a crucial springboard for the sale of lucrative life insurance, pensions, loans, credit cards and mortgages.

Current accounts also provide valuable information about people's income and spending patterns, which helps with "cross selling" other products, says Abbey National spokeswoman Lorna Waddell. Banks make their money through cross selling, says a spokesman for one of the big four banks.

Halifax's latest attempt to grab more of the current account market involves renaming its Maxim Account Halifax Current Account and improving its terms, although some charges have been raised.

Apart from giving a 24-hour telephone banking service, Halifax is also promising a £100 interest-free overdraft, free cash machine withdrawals and is matching Barclays' offer of a free 48-hour overdraft in every month.

At present, it has less than 3 per cent of the current account market but claims to be winning some 7 per cent of the new-to-banking market. Around 70,000 people open their first current account each year.

The Halifax is clearly hoping to poach customers from others, by offering transferees a 60-day waiver of charges for

things such as cheques bouncing.

Conditions are tougher for new entrants to the banking market because established players are putting more effort into retaining their customers, says a Halifax spokesman.

This may help explain why current account customers' dissatisfaction with banks has declined over the past year, if last week's Abbey National survey of 2,822 current account holders is anything to go by. The bank reckoned that 6 million current account customers were dissatisfied in 1995, against 2.5 million people this year.

Dissatisfaction matters because it makes it harder for banks to cross-sell other products to current account holders. Customers will not want a life insurance policy from a bank which gives them bad service.

Banks and building societies must steal each others' customers if they want many more current accounts, because 90 per cent of people have a bank or building society account of some sort. The war for customers is waged quite openly and all the major banks have special "transfer packs", while some offer financial incentives to woo competitors' customers.

The idea of boosting the profitability of current accounts by reintroducing charges even for people in credit is being pursued by some banks, most recently Barclays. However, they face a "severe marketing challenge" because people can still get current account services for free, cautions a report from management consultancy Datamonitor this week.

But Royal Bank of Scotland, which launched a current account with charges in April, claims that more than 60,000 people have got one of the new Royalties accounts.

Halifax's latest offering

... and the terms on offer elsewhere

Account name	Current	Bank Additions	Current Classic	Orchard	Current Plus
Interest - % gross (if in credit for £500)	0.5	1.5	0.3	Current 0 Classic: 0.2	Current 0 Current plus 0.25
Interest when?	Monthly	Yearly	Quarterly	Monthly	Monthly
Free banking if in credit?	Yes	Yes	Bank: Yes Additional: 25p per	Yes, and if up to £10 overdraft	Yes
Interest rates*					
Authorised Overdraft	12.4	11.9 Apr	18.8	18.8 Apr	16.0
Unauthorised Overdraft	28.5	28.5 Apr	29.9	26.8 Apr	24.6
Telephone Banking	24 hours	24 hours	Mon-Fri 9am-11pm, Sat & Bank Hols 9am-5pm	8am-10pm	No
Effective annual rate					

Source: Moneyfacts

Societies' credit standing 'at risk'

Margaret Hughes Personal Finance Editor

WHEN four of the largest building societies become publicly quoted next year, the credit standing of the remaining societies in global capital markets will come "under pressure", says the credit rating agency Moody's.

Moody's argues that "uncertain demand for housing, increased mortgage competition, together with ongoing and aggressive margin cuts" will make it "increasingly difficult for the remaining smaller and less diversified societies to

keep costs down under current regulation".

Moody's said the credit standing of smaller building societies was the most likely to deteriorate, because they would probably find it difficult to maintain low costs. Increased competition, leading to incentives for new mortgage clients, could also mean more "problem loans".

Moody's predicts that an oversupply of mortgage finance "will make mergers necessary for larger societies as well as small and medium-sized operations".

However, the Bradford & Bingley Building Society, which will be the second

largest society once the planned conversions go ahead, attacked Moody's assessment as "too gloomy and based on out-of-date information".

John Wrightsworth, director of strategy and communications at the B&B, said "I find it difficult to understand why Moody's are painting such a pessimistic picture of the outlook for building societies, which according to all the current evidence is very bright indeed."

"The views are based on the situation five years ago, since when societies have seen a dramatic improvement in trading conditions."

BP dividend up again as oil output soars

Patrick Donovan City Editor

BRITISH Petroleum increased its dividend for the fifth time in two years yesterday as it announced that a sharp increase in oil production had helped to offset the industry-wide squeeze on chemical margins.

BP is lifting the dividend by 18 per cent to 5p for the second quarter, after beating City forecasts with a £129 million increase in replacement

cost profits to £648 million — this figure strips out swings in the price of crude oil over the period. That brings to £25p the overall dividend for the six-month period — a 22 per cent increase over the same period the year before.

After the stripping out of exceptional losses of £52 million, which related mainly to the sale of its US headquarters in Cleveland, Ohio, profits over the six-month period rose by £213 million to £1,316 million.

Analysts seized on evidence

that BP was coping with the squeeze on chemical operations much better than its rival, Royal Dutch/Shell, and BP shares rose 7p to 505p.

buoyed by rising oil prices and a 7 per cent increase in production, profits from exploration and production soared 34 per cent over the quarter to £1,488 million.

Output was boosted by three new UK North Sea oil fields coming on stream.

The company forecasts that the crude oil price will continue to hold up exploration

profits over the third quarter, because world crude prices are supported by delays in resumption of exports from Iraq.

This helped to offset a sharp downturn in chemicals which saw profits collapse from £502 million to £242 million over the half-year period. The business has been hit by lower demand from industrial customers and the effect of European plants being closed for routine maintenance.

BP insisted that it had taken steps to improve the business, with moves such as its recent joint venture with Dow chemicals to expand in the polythene manufacturing market.

Within refining and mar-

keting, half-year profits soared from £176 million to £365 million as plant improvement boosted operating margins. British petrol sales are still losing money because of the fierce price war, but BP expects the business to break even over the second half.

Comparable figures last year were depressed by a £82 million rationalisation charge.

BP is still waiting to hear whether the European Commission will approve its cost-saving drive to link up refining operations with the US-based Mobil. An announcement by the EU merger authorities is expected tomorrow, according to sources in Brussels.

Drug group's strength makes dealers quail

OUTLOOK/Zeneca has become a victim of its own success, writes IAN KING

SARE a thought for Sir David Barnes. As chief executive of Zeneca, one of Britain's three premier drug companies, he yesterday unveiled a sparkling set of half-year profits only to be rewarded by a sharp mark-down in his company's shares by the City's dealers.

Worse still, in a subsequent press conference, where any other company publishing such results would be questioned on how such a performance had been achieved, Sir David was grilled on whether he expected Zeneca to stay independent, and in particular

whether Zeneca had received a takeover bid from fierce rival SmithKline Beecham.

The reason for the fall in Zeneca's price — down 20p to 1431p — is easy enough to explain. Simply, the figures Zeneca put out yesterday were so good that it looks like more and more of a tall order for anyone to be strong enough to make a bid for the company.

The less anyone looks like bidding, the more the shares will drop — although the market is still convinced there is a buyer waiting in the wings.

It is a problem Sir David, for one, is heartily sick of. Yesterday, he railed at the takeover rumours, describing them as "verging on the irresponsible". He described reports of merger talks with SmithKline as "wild, unsubstantiated, wholly untruthful and fictional".

Meanwhile it is business as usual, and with pre-tax profits jumping by 21 per cent to £611 million, finance director John Mayo said profits for the full year are likely to be in line with market forecasts, in the £1 billion bracket.

The star performer was the agrochemicals division — which some in the City would like to see hived off — where operating profits were hoisted by a bumper 22 per cent, thanks to the boom in world agricultural markets.

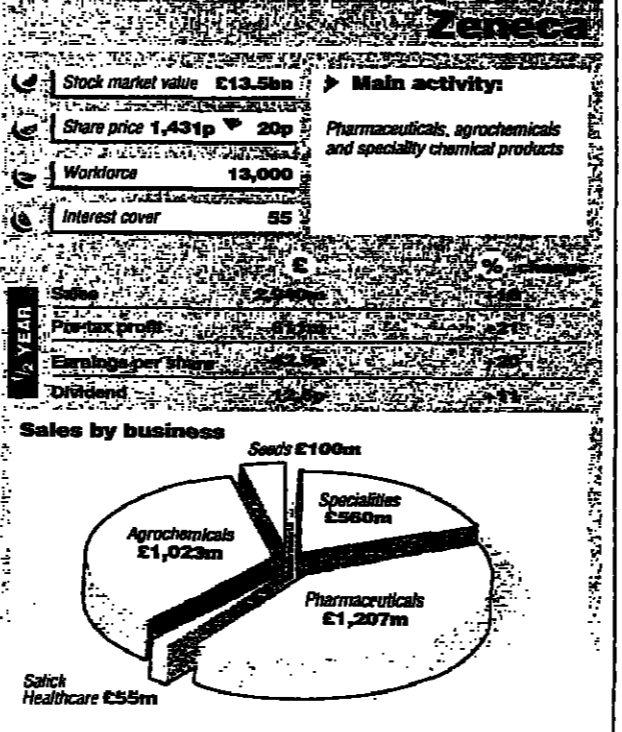
Almost as impressive was the core pharmaceuticals business, still contributing almost two-thirds of operating profits, and where a range of new products — including anti-cancer drugs Casodex, Tomudex and Arimidex — look set to generate strong earnings growth over the next few years.

However, a niggling doubt surfaced yesterday in the form of a small fall in pharmaceutical profit margins, caused largely by higher development and launch costs. More disturbingly, Sir David refused to indicate where he expects margins to be next year, apart from warning that heavy launch costs will continue to be run up.

By contrast, Zeneca's seeds business, now a joint venture with Dutch group Royal VandeRave, has reduced its losses spectacularly, and is expected to move into profit next year.

Similarly, clarity has been improved in the group's speciality division by the sale of the Textile Colours and Speciality Inks businesses. Products like Quora, where sales more than doubled during the same period, continue to offer great potential.

In all, it is easy to see why Sir David is so adamant that Zeneca has plenty of opportunities to go it alone. Whether rivals like Roche — another frequently cited predator — will allow it to do so is another matter, but for now, Zeneca's size and strength are almost enough to make it indigestible for any rival.



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INSTRUMENTS FOR PROFESSIONALS

Call for more and less

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.

Racing

Call for more cash and less fixtures

Chris Hawkins

AS THE British Horseracing Board yesterday pulled together the final draft of its submission to the Treasury asking for a cut of around 1.75 per cent in general betting duty to alleviate racing's financial problems...

ings which next season will reach a record high of 1,177. While the racecourse want as many meetings as they can get, the punters (as distinct from racegoers) do not mind there is evidence that the law of diminishing returns has set in in the betting industry...

Virtually everyone you meet on the racecourse and in betting shops is in favour of the same solution but the BEB remains implacably opposed to cuts. Rod Fabricius, who as clerk of the course saw attendances drop on the five days of the Goodwood Festival, has articulated that problem believing that saturation point has been reached...



Winning duet... Kings Harmony, with Seb Sanders up, on their way to victory at Brighton yesterday

Sanders a hit with Harmony

SEB SANDERS, substituting for Pat Eddery, came in for a winning ride on Kings Harmony, the 11-8 favourite, in the Harringtons of Brighton Handicap yesterday.

stopped. Obviously it stopped some of those behind us." King's Harmony is the sixth racehorse owned by Ten Of Hearts, a 10-woman syndicate, which has won with every horse that has run in its colours.

Whatever the outcome of the BEB submission to the Chancellor and whatever the outcome of the fixture list controversy, the sad and irrefutable fact is that British racing will remain the poorer on the international stage.

Silca's My Key should score for Channon

MICK CHANNON'S physical legacy of his footballing days is a rolling, arthritic gait but materially it is the Saxon horse stables in Lambourn from which he runs a highly successful training operation, writes Chris Hawkins.

length and the breadth of the country, as evidenced today when he transports Silca's My Key to Newcastle for the Northern Racing Nursery.

She has a good chance today and would appear to have most to fear from Top Of The Wind, runner-up to Double Park at Ayr.

— has shown improvement on the all-weather and won by 18 lengths at Southwell. She looks well handicapped back on the turf with only 8st 6lb.

There is evening racing at Kempton where Dane O'Neill can take the opening Irish Night Apprentice Handicap (5.50) on Evidence in Chief (5.50).

Kempton tonight with guide to the form

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Time. Races include Evidence in Chief, Moon Blast, and Star Trot.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Time. Races include Star Trot, Star Trot, and Star Trot.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Time. Races include Star Trot, Star Trot, and Star Trot.

Brighton

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Time. Races include Shear Force, Mystery Matthes, and School Boy.

Newcastle

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Time. Races include Silca's My Key, Call Me, and Shikley Sue.

Nottingham programme tonight

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Time. Races include Fourteen Cavalier, Superficial, and South Pastors.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Time. Races include Jannada Selling Stakes, Sunnyside Wood, and Sunnyside Wood.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Time. Races include Sunnyside Wood, Sunnyside Wood, and Sunnyside Wood.

Results

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Winner. Races include Brighton, Newcastle, and Nottingham.

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Richard Hughes wins

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The only man in this New Yorkshire side who represents the cantankerous professionalism of old is Bevan — an Australian



David Hopps

THERE IS no choice. It's time to come out of the closet. I'm a Yorkshireman. Always have been, pretty much since the day I was born. It will invite all the usual prejudices — that

all my kind are boorish, pig-headed and xenophobic — but I'm just going to have to live with it. Common sense dictates that about your Yorkshiremen from the rooftops (we don't say 'one's Yorkshiremen' up here in God's country) is best avoided. These, after all, are supposed to be the Sensitive Nineties. But every glance towards cricket's County Championship brings on this irresistible urge to brag. Second place, we proclaim, and, despite worrying indications to the contrary, still rising! England might have omitted to pick a Yorkshireman for

the Headingley Test, but those who do turn up, grumbling, to the Great White Rose Refuse Tip find plenty to console them. Conversation will not dwell upon Waqar's Yorker or Caddick's ears but on weightier matters, linked to county not country: Silverwood's out-swinging, Vaughan's cover drive, Steamp's flight. Frankly, you've no bloody idea about the problems of being a Yorkshireman, if you don't mind me saying so. We were the last of our 26 championships in 1988, a decade longer out of power than the Labour Party. Since then we have learned to live with humiliation. Adulthood has

not been one long party. In all that time the sneers have never stopped. Messrs Boycott, Illingworth, Close and Trueman are forever held out as representatives of a cursed and dogmatic breed, even though all are approaching pensionable age and only Close retains an active connection with the club. Perhaps we should be grateful; nobody, as far as I know, has yet suggested that Julie Burchill was born in Heckmondwike. The truth is, the Sensitive Nineties have reached Yorkshire. That and mobility of labour. The only player in the present side who truly represents the wise and cantanker-

ous professionalism of old is Michael Bevan — and he is an Australian. Young Yorkshire players, politely making their way in the world, have shrunk from his moods like the most fearful Jane Austen heroines. It is embarrassing to admit it, but offer them a frowning pint of Tettley Bitter or a bottle of Danish designer lager and the result is no longer a foregone conclusion. About the only homegrown player to conform to type is the captain, David Byes, and even his Yorkshireness is that of the strong, silent Wolds farmer. He could single-handedly dig 20 sheep out of a snowdrift, stop a runaway

tractor with his bare hands and not boast about it once. Whether or not this vulnerable, young team wins the championship, Yorkshireness is now synonymous with foresight. While British sport, disturbed by its Olympic failures, toys with sporting academies, Yorkshire are already enjoying the fruits of their own. True, its concept of a broad-based education may be limited — three months of nets followed by half an hour on how to use a Visa card — but its results are undeniable. Bob Appleyard, an England bowler of the 1960s, argued the academy's case so persuasively that golfing partners,

having observed him slice his drive down the right, were rumored to hook deliberately down the left. His legacy, though, will be immense. More than 20 per cent of cricket is nourished in Yorkshire, vast proportions of it contentedly multiracial. An Asian in the Yorkshire side will automatically follow. In the desolate years the local leagues turned in on themselves, interest returning only when a journalist wanted his frustration on BBC Radio Leeds while under the influence of drink/gout tablets (delete as applicable). Now loyalties are strong again; and for Yorkshire to escape Hea-

dingley and start afresh on a new greenfield site, they will need to be. Those still convinced that "breeding will out" should consider Howard Wilkinson, whose very unpopularity arises from the perception that he is curt and contemptuous... precisely the qualities we supposedly cherish. What Yorkshire needs is a slogan to ram the message home. Something harmless, inoffensive, bland. Something young and optimistic. How about "New Yorkshire, New Britain"? That should do the trick. Amazing we never thought of it before.

Soccer

Uefa Cup, qualifying round, first leg: FC Kosice 0, Celtic 0

Blunt features with red blemish

Patrick Glenn in Kosice

AN UNINSPIRING muddle of a match ended with Celtic as short-priced favourites to reach the first round proper of the Uefa Cup. If not any finer by the time of the second leg in Glasgow, they will surely be significantly sharper. The young forward Simon Donnelly will not, however, be playing any part in the attempt. He was justifiably sent off for a wild lunge at Janocko nine minutes into the second half. It was the Parkhead side's good fortune to encounter opponents whose scoring attempts and all-round play were as slipshod as their own. The Slovaks even managed to miss a first-half penalty, and Marshall, in Celtic's goal, who had committed the

offence, retrieved his standing by making a string of good saves. It was not so much an incident as a mini-series of them which demonstrated the sluggish, frequently dishevelled play of Celtic during most of a game in which they looked as though they were having difficulty in summoning sufficient interest in their own affairs. Marshall moved forward to receive a seemingly harmless lob from Karasek in his own half, then seemed to nod off as he fumbled the ball at the feet of Janocko. The Kosice forward was still in an untreatable position on the left edge of the penalty area when Marshall compounded the error by diving clumsily and pulling him down. The goalkeeper leapt again a few seconds later, this time to his left, to hold Zvara's attempt. The conversion, however, had not been on his feet

long when the referee pulled him up for talking too many steps. The indirect free-kick was pushed to Kozak and his powerful drive was kept out by the line of defenders rushing from the goal-line. Yet, despite the disorder of most of their endeavours, Celtic had missed an opportunity which was almost as good as a penalty before Marshall committed his aberration. Thom came in from the left and fed Cadete, whose quick turn finished with a shot which came off a post. The ball bounced straight to O'Neil and the big defender, very carefully, drove it low towards what looked like an empty net. He had deliberated so long, however, that Hornyak had been able to rush back and he blocked the ball on the line. Later Cadete surprised that effort, sneaking on to Janocko's misdirected header, chipping the helpless Juracka — and sending the ball wide of the far post. Despite the general poverty of the performance, however, Celtic should ensure another elimination to add to the distinguished record of their Slovakian opponents, who have never passed the first round of European competition.



Celtic fier... Cadete surges forward as Kosice's Kozak gives chase in last night's Uefa Cup tie

Dons dance to Dodds' double time

BILLY DODDS scored two goals and laid on two more as Aberdeen made almost certain last night of place in the first round of the Uefa Cup with a 4-1 win over Zalgiris Vilnius in Lithuania. Dodds scored with a volley in the 43rd minute and a penalty in the 80th after being fouled. He also set up a 70th-minute goal for Stephen Glass and another

for the substitute Duncan Shearer in the last minute. The Aberdeen manager Roy Aitken said afterwards: "This was a magnificent team performance." Wales's Uefa Cup representatives Barry Town face a formidable task in their second leg after falling 3-1 to Birkbecker Vasa in Hungary, where Mark Owendale was sent off two minutes from time.

rejection of the club's challenge to that ruling. Lord Justice Hobhouse, sitting with Lord Justices Millett and Swinton-Thomas, ruled that the refusal was a "just outcome". The League spokesman Chris Hull indicated that a review of the club's challenge to the Third Division would be undertaken as soon as possible. "We will take on board all the comments and observations from both the judge and from the Court of Appeal and we will fully examine all aspects and criteria for admission," he said. Victor Green, Stevenage's chairman, was gracious in de-

League promises review as Stevenage lose appeal

STEVENAGE Borough's lengthy battle to win promotion to the Nationwide Football League ended in failure yesterday. The GM Vauxhall Conference champions will, however, take solace from the fact that their determined efforts to right a perceived wrong may ultimately bear fruit. League officials admitted yesterday that a review of the criteria governing admission to English football's Third Division was not inevitable. So too, it would seem, are changes to the controversial rules that denied Stevenage

promotion at the end of last season. Stevenage were barred from automatic promotion because their stadium facilities were not up to the required standard by December 31 of last year, the League's official deadline. Since then the club have carried out extensive building work to produce a 6,000-minimum capacity and to meet other outstanding requirements. Although a High Court judge recently upheld Stevenage's claim that the League's deadline was unfair, he said he could not award them the judgment as their case had come to court too late. Yesterday the Court of Appeal

rejected the club's challenge to that ruling. Lord Justice Hobhouse, sitting with Lord Justices Millett and Swinton-Thomas, ruled that the refusal was a "just outcome". The League spokesman Chris Hull indicated that a review of the club's challenge to the Third Division would be undertaken as soon as possible. "We will take on board all the comments and observations from both the judge and from the Court of Appeal and we will fully examine all aspects and criteria for admission," he said. Victor Green, Stevenage's chairman, was gracious in de-

feet. "I am afraid that this looks like the end of the line," he said. "There is a slight chance that we may have secured a victory for common sense for the future. "Other clubs may reap the benefit rather than us but in the light of what the judge said in the original case, the League must surely see that their criteria for promotion are unfair." Meanwhile, the prospect of the first strike by some of England's professional footballers looked closer as the League and the Professional Footballers' Association drifted further apart over the percentage the union should be guaranteed from the

League's £25 million deal with BSkyB. Having agreed to hold a fresh round of negotiations with the players' union on August 23, the League officials were "dismayed" to learn that the PFA's chairman Gordon Taylor had said in a letter that the union would "not be dissuaded" from its "unavoidable" strike ballot papers are due to be issued within seven days. "I cannot see any daylight," said Taylor. "Strike action does seem likely." The League's assistant secretary Andy Williamson said that the agreement with the PFA had traditionally been to pay 10 per cent of television

monies to the union — but only for specific purposes, ones which the League now feels the need to re-evaluate. "We are disappointed and surprised to hear Mr Taylor's comments," said Williamson. Leeds United have failed in their attempt to sign Ciriaco Sforza as a replacement for Gary McAllister, who recently joined Coventry City in a £2 million deal. Sforza, the Swiss international midfielder, has joined the Italian club Internazionale for a reported £2.6 million. Southampton have completed the signing of the Bristol City defender Richard Dryden in a deal believed to be worth £150,000.

Smith lightens Laudrup's load

Patrick Glenn

RANGERS' annual joust with the demons of pre-qualifying for the Champions' League begins tonight, when the champions of Russia, Alan Vladikavkaz, visit Ibrox for the first leg of the preliminary-round tie. Whereas the Rangers manager Walter Smith tried to unburden one of his most gifted players, Brian Laudrup, of sole responsibility for the outcome of a difficult assignment, his counterpart Valery Gazzayev made some outrageous comments about the readiness of his goalkeeper, Zaur Khapov, to face British opposition in successive European ties. In the absence of the suspended Paul Gascoigne, Laudrup will be regarded by the British team, but I don't want to make too much of it in case he develops a complex." Smith, wearing a who-does-he-think-he's-kidding look, said: "Nobody plays the champions of Russia and expects an easy night."

Smith's summer recruits include the Swedish central defender Joachim Bjorklund from Vicenza and the German midfielder Jorg Albertz from Hamburg. Gazzayev remembered last season's defeat by Liverpool — with whom his side drew 0-0 at Anfield after losing 3-1 at home — and pointed the finger at Khapov. "I believe we played to a better standard than the English team, but everybody knows the goalkeeper let us down," he said. "I'm not sure if he has his nerve back to face another British team, but I don't want to make too much of it in case he develops a complex."

Sport in brief

- Rugby Union**
The Five Nations dispute seems likely to rumble on for a further 10 days after the Scottish RFU president Fred McLeod said yesterday that the home unions had no plans to meet the Rugby Football Union this week. "We remain neither confident nor pessimistic," he said, adding that Scotland, Wales and Ireland were seeking clarification of private and confidential proposals for the RFU.
- Rowing**
Alison Brownless and Jane Hall won their heat in the coxless pairs on the opening day of the world championships at Strathclyde Park yesterday. The lightweight quadruple sculls also reached the semi-finals, finishing third behind Ireland and the Czech Republic, but six of Britain's nine crews were consigned to trial by repechage.
- Bowls**
Fiji went top of section two in the pairs when they defeated Kenya 8-9 in the women's world outdoor championships at Lenington Spa yesterday. In the other section the holders, Ireland's Phyllis Nolan and Margaret Johnston, were

Results

- Soccer**
EUFA Cup Qualifying round
First leg
FC Kosice (0) v Celtic (0) D
Zalgiris Vilnius (0) v Aberdeen (1) D
Rangers (4) v Dundee (2) W
Stirling Albion (1) v Dundee (0) D
Stirling Albion (1) v Dundee (0) D
Stirling Albion (1) v Dundee (0) D
Stirling Albion (1) v Dundee (0) D
- Golf**
ATP Tennis Championships (Miami, Fla)
Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 v Andre Agassi (USA)
Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 v Andre Agassi (USA)
Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 v Andre Agassi (USA)
Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 v Andre Agassi (USA)

Baseball

- AMERICAN LEAGUE**
Milwaukee 13, Oakland 3
Boston 2, Toronto 1
Baltimore 2, Chicago 1
Texas 5, Detroit 2
Cleveland 2, Minnesota 1
New York Yankees 5, Kansas City 1
Los Angeles 8, San Diego 2
Florida 10, Colorado 2
Cincinnati 4, San Francisco 2
- NATIONAL LEAGUE**
Philadelphia 3, Pittsburgh 2
Chicago 2, New York Mets 1
St. Louis 9, San Diego 2
Florida 10, Colorado 2
Cincinnati 4, San Francisco 2

Cycling

- TOUR OF PORTUGAL** Second stage
Qualifying for the final leg (120km, 120km, 120km, 120km)
1. M. Lali (P) 26:48
2. V. Garcia (S) 27:02
3. J. Gomez (A) 27:08
4. M. Azeiteiro (S) 27:15
5. P. Ferras (S) 27:20
6. A. Vitorino (S) 27:25
7. L. Garcia (S) 27:30
8. J. Gomez (A) 27:35
9. M. Azeiteiro (S) 27:40
10. P. Ferras (S) 27:45

Baseball

- AMERICAN LEAGUE**
Milwaukee 13, Oakland 3
Boston 2, Toronto 1
Baltimore 2, Chicago 1
Texas 5, Detroit 2
Cleveland 2, Minnesota 1
New York Yankees 5, Kansas City 1
Los Angeles 8, San Diego 2
Florida 10, Colorado 2
Cincinnati 4, San Francisco 2
- NATIONAL LEAGUE**
Philadelphia 3, Pittsburgh 2
Chicago 2, New York Mets 1
St. Louis 9, San Diego 2
Florida 10, Colorado 2
Cincinnati 4, San Francisco 2

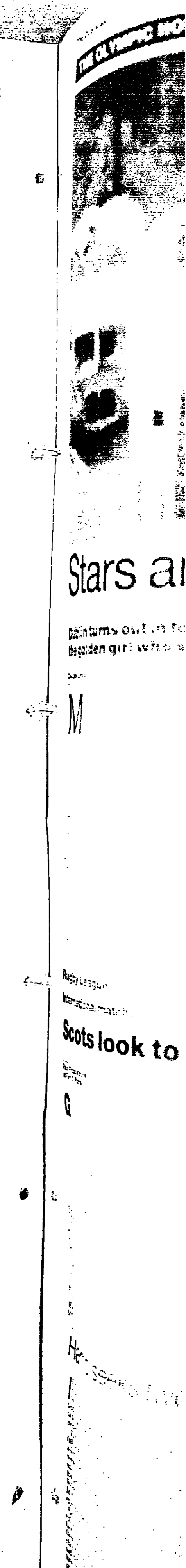
Cricket

- BRITANNIC ASSURANCE COUNTY CUP**
Lancashire 127, Derbyshire 87
Warwickshire 127, Lancashire 87
Warwickshire 127, Lancashire 87
Warwickshire 127, Lancashire 87
Warwickshire 127, Lancashire 87

A new dawn for Day after goalkeeper goes to Palace

CRYSTAL PALACE have given the goalkeeper Chris Day the chance to launch his league career, after four frustrating years at Tottenham, in a deal which could be worth more than £200,000. Day, though capped by England Under-21, never played a competitive game for Spurs. He drops down a division in joining Palace, who recently sold Nigel Martyn for £2.3 million to Leeds. Palace will pay an initial £225,000 for the 31-year-old, with a further £200,000 after an as yet unspecified number of appearances. If Day wins a senior England cap Palace will pay another £100,000.

At Tottenham, Gerry Francis has taken on a Norwegian goalkeeper, Espen Baardson, as cover for Ian Walker. Hearts have won the battle for their Scottish Premier Division opener at Dunfermline on Saturday to be postponed. A special general meeting of the Scottish League management committee accepted Hearts' request for the match to be put back to give them time to recover from tomorrow's European Cup Winners' Cup game at Red Star Belgrade. Carlisle have signed a Frenchman, Stephane Pounsawatchy, from Guingamp. The 28-year-old defender is the Third Division club's first foreign player.

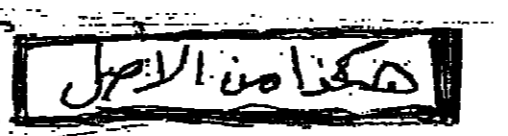


Stars at

Paints turns out to be the golden girl...

M

Scots look to



THE OLYMPIC HOMECOMING



Welcome home from the fans

Rain on the parade... Michelle Smith, Ireland's triple gold medallist, defies the elements to smile through a typically dank Dublin day as Britain's Kelly Holmes reveals the cost of one race too many

PHOTOGRAPH BY MARTIN GODWIN

Stars and gripes in a tale of two airports

Dublin turns out in force to welcome the golden girl who set the Games alight

Declan Lynch

MICHELLE Smith, three gold medals and a bronze adorning her chest, led the Irish Olympic squad on to the tarmac at Dublin airport yesterday morning in monsoon conditions. She hardly got as wet as this in Atlanta, she was not in the pool long enough.

Stephen Roche, the Republic's football team, Michael Carruth and Barry McGuigan had had it easy with their homecoming fiestas. The only people who were properly acclimatised to this were the marching bands, who usually strut their stuff on St Patrick's Day when bad weather is compulsory.

With a Smithsonian intensity, she was stripping in front of all comers before the 5,000 metres heat, just like they did in ancient Greece, switching from Reebok to Asics, she was caught up in a hideous squabble of commerce and officialdom which has still to be fully resolved, and for which in older days men would have been boiled in oil amid scenes of public rejoicing.

able avenue of physical and psychological malfunction has been explored. Her condition has inspired the most extravagant urban legends, as speculation runs to cosmic proportions. It was all too weird to have a routine explanation, though we will probably have to be satisfied with something dull.

St John was about to sing The Ferryman, but he desisted, either from a heightened sense of irony or because the speech-making was about to begin again.

Gatwick unmoved as Britons make a low-key return

Wivok Chaudhary

THEY emerged into the arrivals hall, looking tanned and relaxed and content with the events of the past two weeks.

holidaymakers, most of whom were only waiting for lifts home. The team's arrival went virtually unnoticed but a small cheer went up when Roger Black, who won two silver medals, and the oarsman Matthew Pinsent, Britain's only gold medal success with Steven Redgrave, emerged to greet the small but loyal band of well-wishers.

Steve Backley, who won a silver medal in the javelin, said that the team were not to blame for their poor performance. "It is not that we did not do so well, it is that everyone is getting better," he said.

Rugby League

International match: Scotland 26, Ireland 6

Scots look to big man Tait

Paul Fitzpatrick at Firhill Park

GLASGOW remained massively unimpressed as international rugby league returned to Scotland for the first time since 1911 at Firhill. Thistle's football ground last night.

Scotland had lost two of their London Broncos representatives, Terry Matterson and Duncan McRae, before the match had started.

from Scotland's pressure and it was no surprise when Carlisle's Russell went over from acting half-back for Scotland's second try.

Golf

Faldo to strike up with hot trio in sharpest PGA ever

David Davies in Louisville

THE strongest field in the history of the game sees off in the 78th US PGA Championship at the Valhalla Golf Club here in Kentucky tomorrow.

when they were hardly of major status. Faldo wants to join this elite group and to that end spent last week "grinding away on the practice ground at Lake Nona in Florida where he has his American base."

US Open champion, and Tom Lehman, who survived Faldo's looming presence in the final pairing at Lytham to win the Open. The trio, by virtue of having each won a major, are clearly the three most successful golfers of the year so far.

Sailing

Winds savage Cowes fleet

Bob Fisher at Cowes

GUSTS of 30 knots over a stiff south-westerly wreaked havoc with the racing yachts in Cowes Week yesterday. One boat sank, others were damaged, stranded, or suffered shredded sails and broken gear on a day when the Solent was more white than green and retirements were more numerous than finishers.

took these 80-footers out to the Needles in a series of windward-leeward legs. Mike Slade's 84-foot Longobarda took over Nicorette's lead when the water-ballast system of this Grand Mistral boat packed up, severely reducing her stability, and then she blew out a jib.

Harris seeks two-code move

ESTYN HARRIS, put on offer for £1.35 million by Warrington, insisted yesterday that he does not want to forsake league football, writes Paul Fitzpatrick.

would not allow their staff to play union in the winter. After playing 70 successive games, Harris has five matches left of Warrington's past five matches.

St Helens, the Super League leaders, have lost Vili Matanilo for the rest of the season. The powerful and versatile Western Samoan damaged a knee in the victory at Castleford last Friday.

Cricket

Long arm of Australia reaches out into Law's NatWest account

THE will-he-won't-he saga over whether Stuart Law will play in Essex's NatWest Trophy semi-final took a step towards resolution yesterday when Australia insisted he leave for their tour of Sri Lanka on the same evening.

Essex, worried that next Tuesday's game against Surrey might spill over into the NatWest account, had asked that the batsman be allowed to delay his departure by 24 hours.

That request was rejected by the Australian board, and Essex's general manager, said: "All we can do is wait and see what the weather is like. If there is no threat of rain Law will play."

But if there is a likelihood of the rain going into a second day he will have to be left out.

national at Chelmsford. However, their 19-year-old all-rounder Danny Wilson, son of the Hot Chocolate singer Errol Brown, underlined his potential with an unbeaten 52 and two wickets on his debut.

Racing chiefs call for fewer fixtures, page 13
Celtic stand firm in Uefa Cup clash, page 14

Cowes fleet lashed by gales, page 15
The return of the Olympians, page 15

SportsGuardian

Geordies salute the people's champion Shearer

Tyneside witnessed a fine debut by Billy Big Pockets, writes Michael Walker

IT FELT like the moment a mass fantasy became a reality. At five minutes past two yesterday Alan Shearer walked around the lush, pre-season turf of St James' Park, Newcastle, and a city swooned.

Inside the spanking new stadium were 1,400 workers from Newcastle Breweries, which sponsors the club, and outside thousands more waited patiently in the rain. All they wanted was a glimpse of their hero and an assured, nimble performance.

Shearer gave them this and even supplied the deadliest of finishes with a line that sounded like a song by Johnny Cash: "After all, I'm just a sheet-metal worker's son from Newcastle."

Johnny Cash could actually be Shearer's nickname (at Blackburn it was Billy Big Pockets), but the world's most expensive footballer responded to questions about his wealth differently. "If money comes my way," he said, "that's fine, I'll deal with it when it comes along. It certainly won't change me. I decided to join Newcastle before money was even mentioned."

He laughed off a report that he would earn £6.17 a second every time he was on the pitch, and said that there was no pressure from the fee.

"I'll say it now, and probably say it time and time again, but the price-tag has nothing to do with me. I don't set that price and all I can do is do my best. If I'm worth £15 million and someone is prepared to pay that, then that's out of my hands."

It was, of course, in the hands of the two men who banked Shearer on the podium. Sir John Hall and Kevin Keegan. When Keegan arrived at Newcastle as a player 14 years ago he was hailed as the Messiah, and now as manager it seemed appropriate that his prodigal son signing should sit on his right-hand side.

Keegan, however, was taking none of the glory; instead, as he frequently does, he chose to praise the Newcastle fans. "It's your money," he said of the £15 million. "It's the money you've spent on your replica shirts, the

money you've spent on your season tickets and your bonds, the programmes and the Black and White magazines."

Nine days ago when Keegan announced the Shearer deal he had described it as a signing for the people of Newcastle. This was a press conference for the people, and Keegan and Hall took the opportunity to reiterate their Geordie manifesto.

The manager said he saw his job as "reinvesting" the supporters' money. "So when you come to watch the product on the park here it's the very best we feel we can provide."

Both Keegan and Hall thought it especially good news that Shearer was a Geordie returning home. "We have sold them off time and time again up here," said Keegan. "We built stands with the money and we've tried to buy players to replace them quickly. That's gone at this club now."

It was an echo of his "biggest-thinking team in Europe" remark last week, and he repeated that he intended not to sell any of the current squad and that he would play Shearer alongside, and not in place of, Les Ferdinand.

"Despite what some people think, I think they will make a terrific strike force. I think they can both take each other places where they dream about going," Shearer concurred and thanked Ferdinand for the iconic No. 9 jersey, although he said he would play in any number for Newcastle — "even No. 29".

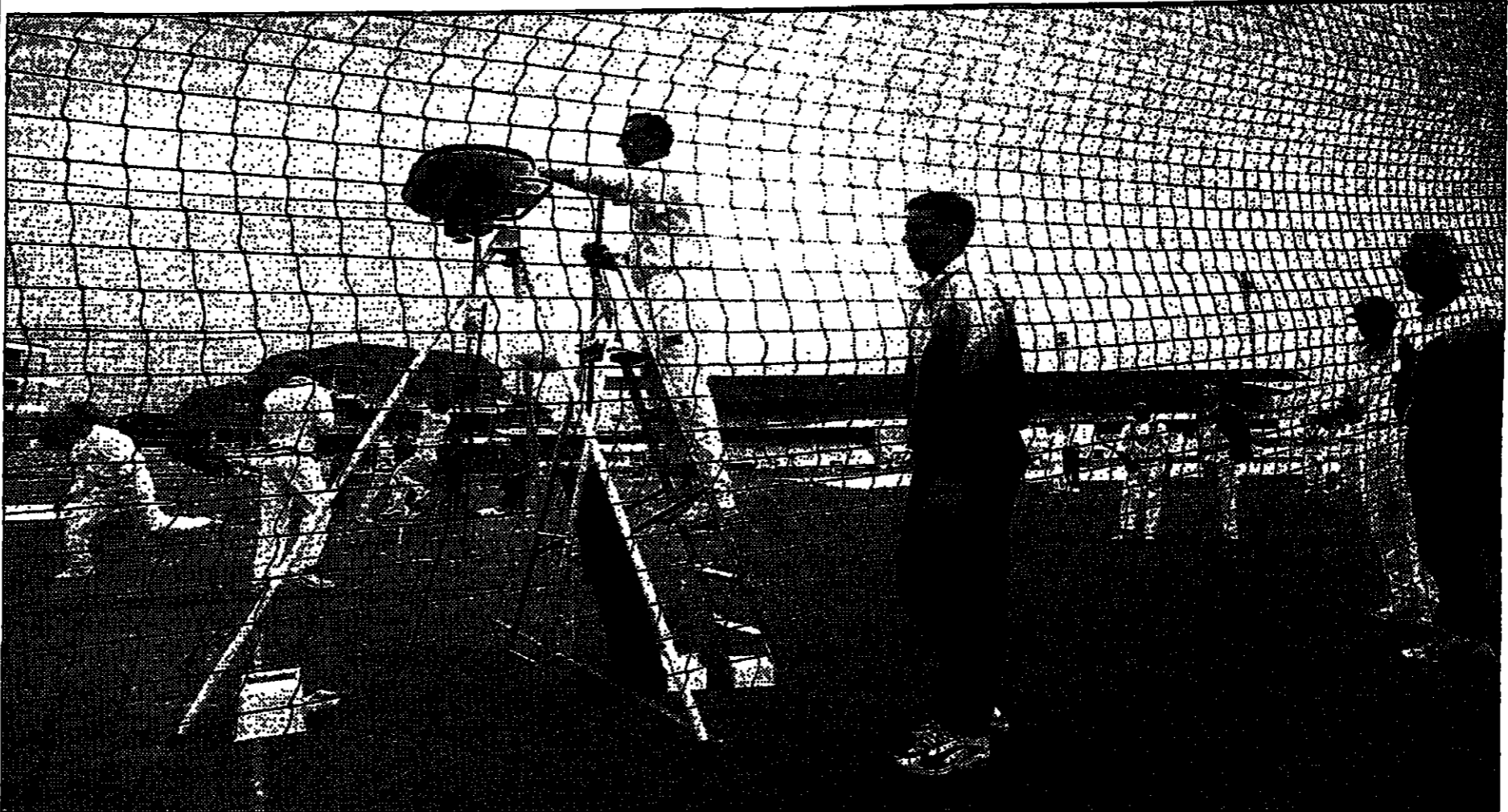
Shearer also had praise for the club he left behind, Blackburn Rovers, and revealed that there was a stage in negotiations with their owner, which saw the striker swaying towards staying another year. "I had a long meeting with Jack Walker on the Sunday," said Shearer. "I asked him if I could consider my options and see what I wanted to do."

The England centre-forward then flew back from Walker's Jersey home and met Alex Ferguson on the Monday. Then he spoke to his mentor at Blackburn, Kenny Dalglish, whose advice was typically laconic: "Whatever you do you can't lose."

Shearer finally met Keegan on the Tuesday and his mind was made up. "Obviously I was very impressed. Everyone knows I've always wanted to play for the club, but if I'd gone elsewhere I would have had the best years of my career behind me; now at Newcastle I have got the best years in front of me. And to play in front of my mum and dad at St James' Park is something else."

With Shearer's decision made, all Blackburn could do was name their price. "£15 million and no quibbling," Newcastle's chief executive Freddie Fletcher was told, but neither he nor anyone else was quibbling yesterday, not in Newcastle anyway.

ENGLAND SHAKE-UP ON EVE OF SECOND TEST



Step up... David Lloyd will accompany England on tour this winter. Yesterday his sights were limited to his batsmen as he operated Headingley's bowling machine. CHRIS THOMSON

Lloyd near his dream team

David Hopps on how Ian Botham may be the chief beneficiary from Peter Lever's surprise resignation as England bowling coach

DAVID LLOYD'S innovative reign as England coach will be given official blessing by the Test and County Cricket Board this week when he is invited to direct the side on the winter tours to Zimbabwe and New Zealand. When the news broke yesterday he immediately expressed his aspiration to make England the best team in the world by 1999, which sounded adventurous even from a man of such unbounded optimism.

One of Lloyd's first undertakings, if he is accorded the power he anticipates, will be to introduce Ian Botham into England's coaching set-up. Lloyd recognises that the great former all-rounder, however much he may have marred his reputation in about basic cricketing principles.

Lloyd's inventive use of tennis balls, boxing matches, musical tapes and candy-floss eating contests (sorry, the last one was made up) was hardly what Lever had in mind.

As team-mates in the Lancashire sides of the Sixties and Seventies the pair were cordial enough, but they were not exactly bosom buddies so Lever's departure is entirely understandable. Lloyd was markedly coy about Lever's decision yesterday, but he was bowled coach undoubtedly jumped before he was pushed.

Botham had already bested a quiet retreat, there being little point in employing two left-handed batsmen from the same era. Lever confined himself to a brief confirmation yesterday that although there had been no falling-out, there was a "difference in styles".

As for Botham, Lloyd has hankered after his involvement since the start of the season, only for Illingworth in what will arguably be seen as his last autocratic intervention as chairman of selectors, determinedly to exclude the possibility.

Further confirmation that Lloyd's ebullient and at times unconventional approach now holds sway comes with the revelation that Peter Lever has tendered his resignation as England's bowling coach from the end of the season.

"I can't say much at the moment, but I will be getting my own men in," said Lloyd. "There was no difference of opinion with Peter but he was Raymond Illingworth's appointment and he has tendered his resignation."

Lever was appointed by Illingworth in May last year and, in common with the batting coach John Edrich, was touted as an uncomplicated man steeped in solid, old-fashioned methods, well able to enlighten England's players about basic cricketing principles.

But Illingworth's retirement is imminent, and if the Afield report, the examination of the management and structure of English cricket, is implemented, Lloyd will have control of his own coaching budget, with the freedom to hire and fire as he saw fit. Botham will then be invited to fulfil a broad-based role, although it is to be hoped that Lloyd keeps a sizeable contingency fund for legal occurrences.

Lloyd, who was employed on a trial basis at the start of the season, has already been

approached by Alan Smith, the TCCB's outgoing chief executive, to discuss his availability for a winter programme which offers England a distinct opportunity to improve an abysmal record overseas.

"I am going to Zimbabwe and New Zealand," Lloyd confirmed at Headingley yesterday, "and I expect to hear something during this game. The winter coaching personnel will be suggested by me."

Lloyd anticipates a two-year contract, in line with the minimum period envisaged in the recently released Afield report, which goes before the Board for approval later this year.

Among Lloyd's priorities will be to change the mood of England tours overseas. For too long they have tended towards the unadventurous and suspicious. Zimbabwe, and to a lesser extent New Zealand, are both countries where long, monotonous winters can have a detrimental effect upon performances.

Lloyd's appointment as England coach may be followed by his removal from the selection panel if another Afield conclusion is adopted. The coach viewed that possibility with equanimity.

"It would make my position easier and give me more scope in my relationships with the players," he said. "I've got no worries about that."

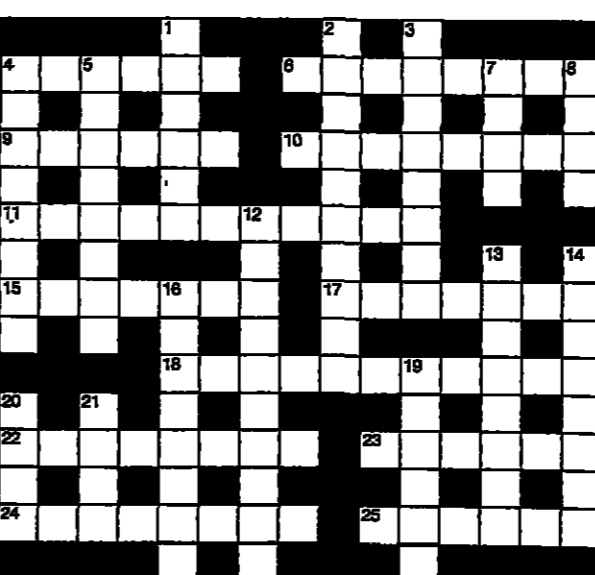
Yorkshire my Yorkshire, P14

The Lloyd method

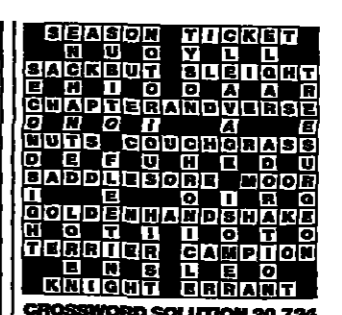
- An encouragement of debate in preference to an intractable belief in "the right way".
- The use of boxing to improve hand-eye co-ordination.
- Inspirational slogans in the dressing room, along the lines of "The ambition to win is important, but the ambition to train to win is most important of all".
- "Cuddles" for players as well as kicks up the backside.
- Close-catching practice with tennis balls to reduce the risk of finger injuries and to teach the art of "soft hands".
- Inspirational music tapes, including Jerusalem and Land of Hope and Glory.
- A developing interest in sports psychology.

Guardian Crossword No 20,725

Set by Araucaria



- Across**
- 4 Hillhead senior won last time (6)
 - 6 Non-fictional William? The case can go higher (4,4)
 - 9 No whistle-blower's habit (6)
 - 10 Mute utterance backed what rodent does about boy (4-4)
 - 11 Great trouble being kept by keeper in aquarian setting (5,6)
 - 15 Agreement to occupy little room? (7)
 - 17 He'll go for a steer like the wind in the leaves (7)
 - 18 Sea across the Channel an Irishman depicted, the old fool (5-6)
 - 22 Indian firm on the Channel across the Sea (8)
 - 23 String goes into string — it's a bit painful (6)
- Down**
- 1 User of a hundred topless pens or blue pencils? (6)
 - 2 China's royal race (5,5)
 - 3 Pole put in money for a chain (6)
 - 4 Sheep from the West caught by female detective (6)
 - 5 Sentences in American publications take ages (8)
 - 7 Picture for one to study (4)
 - 8 Listener to direction for sledge (4)
 - 12 Father's funny greeting to virgin following a narrow escape? (10)
 - 13 Italian name for actress in football club (English) (6)



- 14 The pulse in the forehead is just bully (6)
 - 16 Tick off a day in the embrace of a beautiful person (6)
 - 19 Noah's second attempt on the Trent? (6)
 - 20 A lot of detectives take drugs (4)
 - 21 Ruler who turns up for Frost? (4)
- Solution tomorrow**

☛ Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0881 338 238. Calls cost 33p per min, plus 49p per min at all other times. Service supplied by RTS.

'A sheet-metal worker's son from Newcastle'

continued from page 1 expectedly polyn blue shoes. "Football has never left the area. It's the talent that's gone away. What we're saying here is you don't have to leave Newcastle."

And, indeed, there will be economic benefits to the place from buying Shearer. Dozens more staff have been taken on in the club shop to process orders for Shearer shirts. Thousands of extra pounds have flowed through pub tills toasting the new arrival. Hundreds more Scandinavians will flock in for football and shopping weekends.

The cynic might suggest the chief beneficiary of the Shearer boom will be Sir John Hall, owner of Britain's biggest shopping centre, the Metro Centre in Gateshead, in an economy built on retail, not in possession of a brand as potent as Shearer is to be king.

John's making money out of this," said Dave Trainer, from Darlington, at 25 the same age as Shearer but earning slightly less as one of the area's unemployed. "But without him we'd have none of this," he added. "Sure, I can't afford to come and watch them, but I'd rather not be able to afford to watch my team with Shearer in it than get in to see rubbish."

As for the man himself, well, Shearer clearly prefers his venomous right foot to do

his talking; his press conference pronouncements were not in the sardines and trawlers class. Blinking modestly in the flashbulb blaze, he limited himself to talking of "giving 110 per cent" and saying "For me the season can't come quick enough."

He also declared: "If money comes my way, that's fine; I'll deal with that when it comes along. It certainly won't change me. After all, I'm only a sheet metal-worker's son from Newcastle."

Mrs Donaldson was thrilled by the man. "He's lovely, everything a mother dreams her son to be," she said. "Not one you'd just over, mind. Not like Sir John. Power, now that's the real aphrodisiac." Meanwhile, outside the stadium, the 15,000 fans waited for their new man to appear on the stage. A sense of parochial triumphalism was on their minds as they ignored the rain and sang as one: "Are you watching, Sunderland?"

Fantasies are also discourteous. Making it with your partner and thinking of his mate or Johnny Depp isn't exactly good manners. And let's not avoid the loyalty thing: fantasies are disloyal. Oh yes they are. Your heart may belong to daddy but some other succulent part of you is absent without leave.

Tony Brignull, G2 page 4

سكنا من الالح

